

ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Harry Houdini
the ghostbuster
From magician to moral crusader



100s
OF FACTS

10 WORST ROMANS

Meet the ancient empire's most notorious villains



CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

How the world found itself on the brink of nuclear war

CROMWELL

KING KILLER

How one blood-soaked fanatic led England into civil war



THE POPE'S DARK SECRET

Inside the hidden world of the Knights Templar



MALCOLM X'S RACE WAR

The story of the infamous civil rights activist



DEATH FROM ABOVE

Eyewitness account of the Hindenburg's last journey

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Cuban refugees watch as US President Kennedy announces a 'quarantine' of Cuba

Welcome

Even today, when for many the monarchy represents little more than a tourist attraction, there are few who would dare to threaten its place in British society. It's therefore hard to imagine the chaos and confusion England was thrown into when in 1642, one man marched the country into civil war and the king onto the execution block. On page 52, we get inside the mind of history's most defiant military leader, revealing how Oliver Cromwell secured his position as the most powerful man in Britain.

Fast-forward 300 years and the world found itself faced with a very different and far more formidable crisis - one that threatened to destroy humanity through nuclear war. Discover the events of those perilous 13 days in our Cuban Missile Crisis feature on page 68, and find out how we narrowly dodged disaster

thanks to the compromises made by US President John F Kennedy.

Though the age of empires is over, the achievements and atrocities of history's power-hungry nations still fascinate us. You can learn more about empire builders and destroyers on page 12. We also question whether Malcolm X's violent protest was justifiable on page 28 and shortlist ten of Ancient Rome's most despicable characters on page 60. Enjoy the issue.



Alicea

Alicea Francis

Issue 20 highlights

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Eye Witness

A first-hand account of the Hindenburg disaster provides insight into one of history's most infamous flight disasters and the technological U-turn that ensued.

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Lost civilisations

Discover the forgotten societies that helped to shape history, as we unveil the mysterious and cutthroat kingdoms of the ancient world.

84



Houdini's final trick

Famous for his daring escapes and elaborate tricks, we expose Harry Houdini's little-known crusade to rid the world of spiritualist fraudsters.

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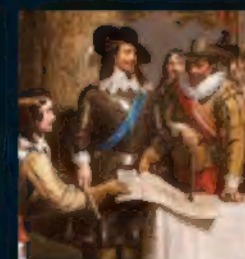
Unearthing the ruins and relics of seven forgotten empires that changed the world

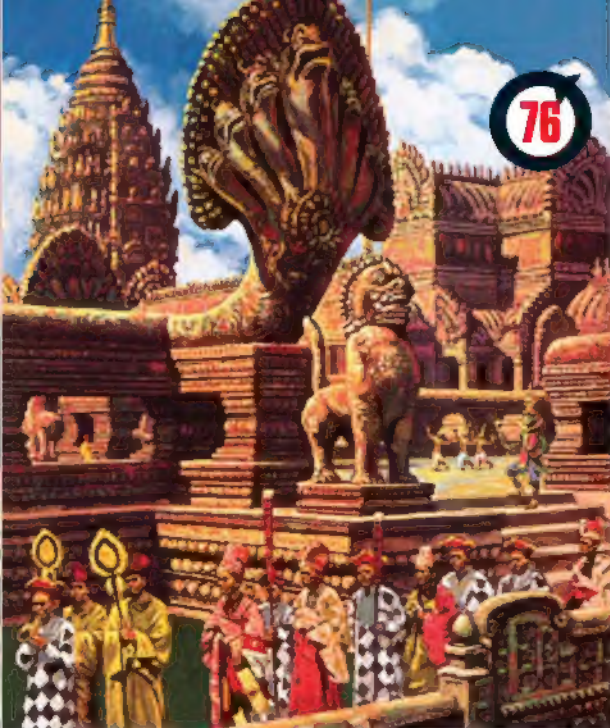
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HISTORY IN COLOUR

THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES

A country store in North Carolina during the Great Depression - the longest, deepest and most widespread economic crisis of the 20th century. Rural areas like these were among the hardest hit, as crop prices fell dramatically. Meanwhile, Coca Cola continued to turn a profit, taking advantage of the people's need for a simple moment of pleasure and a reminder of happier times.

1939



BUY YOUR
TOBACCO
AT
ROXBORO
9 CIGARETTES
David, Borden, Claret
Assorted Brands

AMEL
LARRY
EGGERS

Double-Mellow
OLD GOLD
Cigarettes

Coca-Cola
Double wrapped... always FRESH!

LUCKY
STRIKE
CIGARETTES

Chesterfields
SATISFY

7-11
Coca-Cola

7-11
Coca-Cola

POP
SPECIALS

A black and white photograph of a harbor scene. In the foreground, a wooden pier extends into the water, with several large cylindrical objects (possibly buoys or floats) attached to it. In the background, a large ship is visible, and a massive plume of smoke and fire rises from the water, indicating a recent explosion. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of chaos and destruction.

DEFINING MOMENT

ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

USS Shaw explodes after Japanese forces drop bombs on the Pearl Harbor naval base, an attack that led to the United States' entry into World War II. All eight of the Navy's battleships were destroyed, with four being sunk. Incredibly, USS Shaw's damage was repaired within months, and she served in the Pacific for the remainder of the war.

7 December 1941





DEFINING MOMENT

IRAQ'S FIRST FREE ELECTIONS

Election officials search voters at a polling station in Iraq, following the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein's government by multinational forces. The 2005 elections are considered the first free elections in the country's history, with a fair representation of all groups. At elections three years previously, Hussein claimed to have won with 100 per cent of the votes.

30 January 2005





A WWII propaganda poster showing servicemen from across the British Empire coming together to defeat the Axis powers



Empires

A HISTORY OF POWER-HUNGRY LEADERS INVADING LAND AND SEA



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Build an empire using a combination of propaganda, resources and sheer force

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An Inca warrior, defending the Inca Empire with slingshots and spears

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About the Persian Empire

Constantine the Great was crowned emperor of the Roman Empire in the conquered city of Eboracum, now York in Great Britain



Cetshwayo kaMzinyane was the king of the Zulu Kingdom and famously led the Zulu nation to victory against the British in the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879



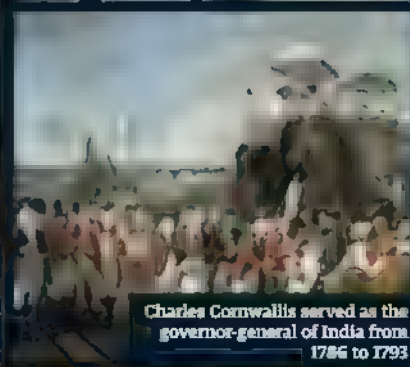
Napoleon Bonaparte and his French troops capture Cairo in the Battle of the Pyramids



The last sultan of the Ottoman Empire, Mehmed VI, leaves the Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul shortly before being exiled to Italy. Turkey was declared a republic the following year

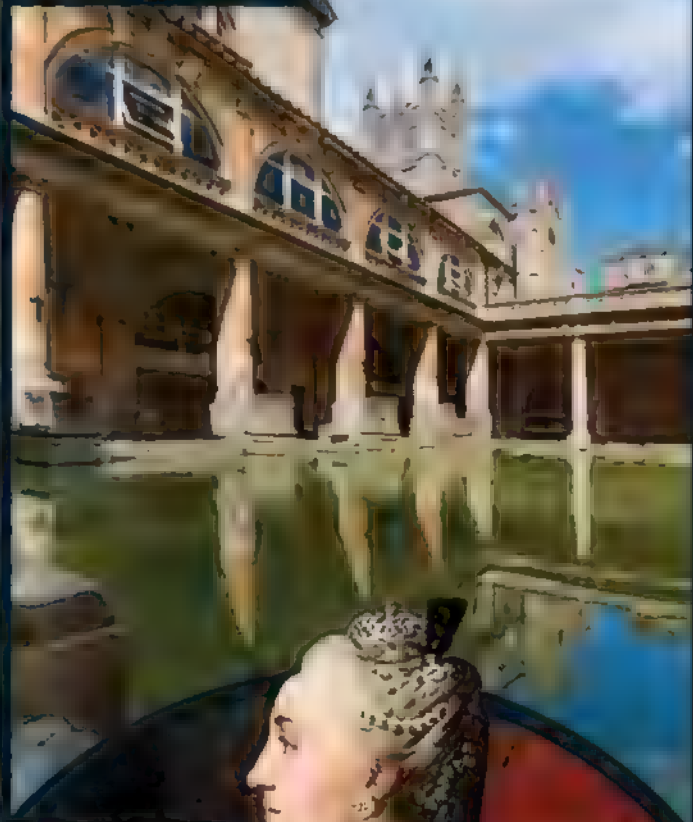


Behind the glory of empire is a dark past of slavery.

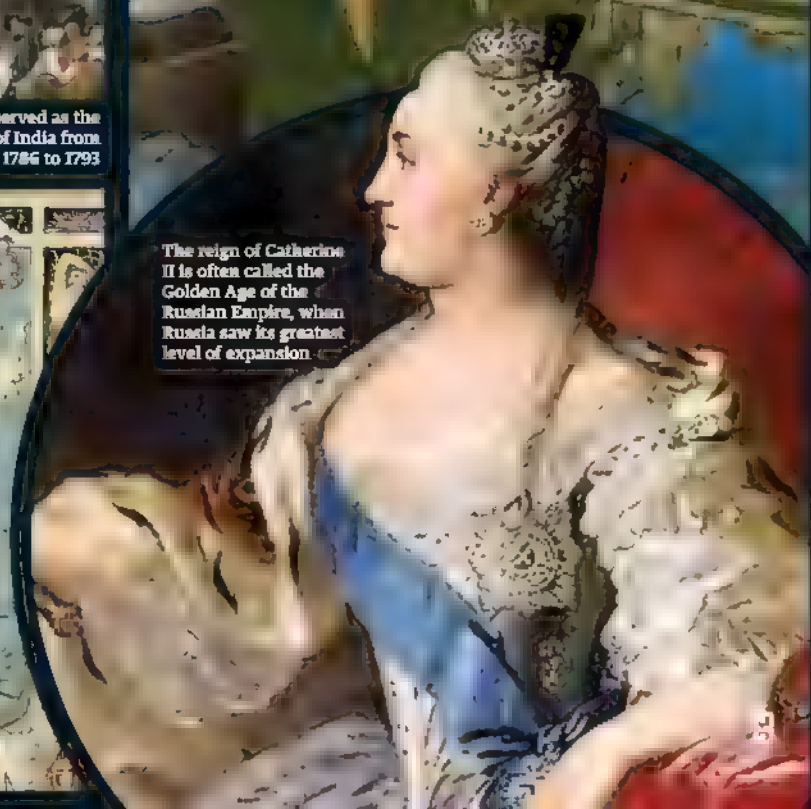


Charles Cornwallis served as the governor-general of India from 1786 to 1793

The legacy of the Roman invasion of Britain can still be seen today in the city of Bath



At its height, the British Empire was the largest in history, holding power over one-fifth of the world's entire population



The reign of Catherine II is often called the Golden Age of the Russian Empire, when Russia saw its greatest level of expansion

How to BUILD AN EMPIRE

CREATE THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL
KINGDOM, WORLDWIDE, ALL OF HISTORY

5 IMPERIAL WARRIOR TYPES

MONGOL HORDE

13TH CENTURY, MONGOLIA

Skilled at archery and horse riding, the brutal methods of the Mongol army made this the largest contiguous empire of all time.

MING WARRIORS

1368-1644, CHINA

Ming Dynasty warriors were among the first to use gunpowder weapons, allowing them to greatly expand the Chinese Empire.

ROMAN CENTURION

107 BCE - 5TH CENTURY, ROME

Highly skilled commanders of the Roman army, they led their troops by example and making a living purely as warriors.

AZTEC WARRIOR

1428-1521, MEXICO

Aztec warriors dressed in hides of animals such as eagles and jaguars. These famed warriors were ruthless in battle despite bearing only bows and clubs.

PERSIAN IMMORTALS

550-330 BCE, PERSIA

These elite soldiers would immediately be replaced if they were to fall in battle, keeping their number at exactly 10,000.

IMPERIAL ESSENTIALS

Emperor god

In many empires, rulers have been exalted as a god on Earth, such as Egyptian pharaohs who used this to establish dominance and control.

Temple

As grand displays of their power and dominance, emperors have built temples, statues and monuments in their conquered lands.

Worshippers

A loyal band of followers is essential for forming a strong and dedicated army that will fight in the name of the emperor.

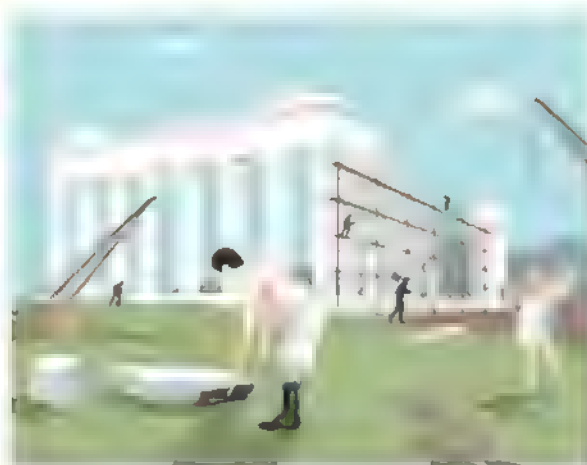


Empires - series of states or countries that are ruled by a supreme authority - have existed almost as long as mankind itself. Since the Akkadian Empire of 2250 BCE, the race for the greatest empire on Earth has been an eventful one. People from Alexander the Great to Queen Victoria have built some of the most impressive and imposing empires in history, forever changing the landscape and structure of the world. However, all these empires also have something else in common - all of them have disappeared. How can you avoid that?



01 Become a strong leader

From Napoleon to Genghis Khan, it has been repeatedly proven that strong leaders build empires. You can copy Alexander the Great and make yourself a hero by leading the troops yourself and rewarding them by sharing the spoils of war. You can also take a more symbolic persona like Queen Victoria and let your ministers and generals do the legwork for you.

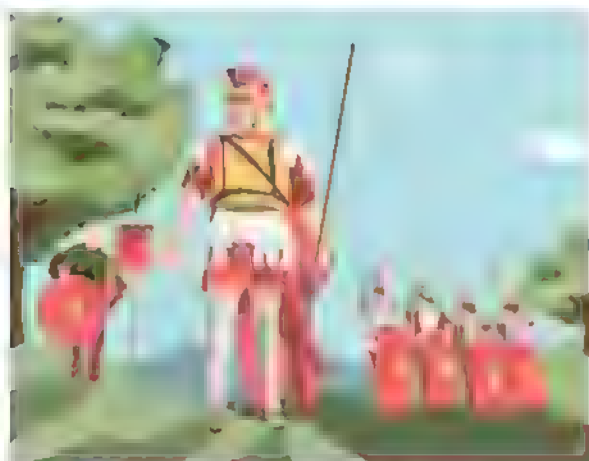


02 Create a mythology

To get anyone to follow you, your empire is going to need a core belief system. Ancient Rome didn't have an inspiring past to exploit, so they simply created their own legends (and borrowed a fair few from the Greeks). A strong ideology with temples to worship in will unite your public and convince them that expansion is a great idea.

How not to... maintain an empire

Nobody can deny Alexander the Great's prowess in building an empire. In little more than ten years, he used his military genius and powerful army to create an empire that stretched from the Adriatic Sea in Europe to the Indus River in Asia, toppling the Achaemenid Empire in the process. However, this kingdom that crossed three continents came crumbling down just as quickly as it was built. Ruled by his own arrogance, Alexander created an empire that placed him at the centre, the well-being of the people and the upkeep of the empire relying on him. He refused to leave a clear successor and eliminated anyone who threatened his reign. When he met his premature death, likely by assassination, he simply said his kingdom should be left "to the strongest". Alexander failed to provide a male heir and had also killed anyone who might have been suitable for the role. Civil war broke out and his great empire was torn apart in a matter of years.



03 Conquer with your army

Now you have a loyal band of followers, you shouldn't have any trouble getting them to sign up to the army. Sometimes simply having a powerful force will convince countries that joining you is in their best interest. If they continue to resist then just give them a taste of your steel, they'll come around, eventually.



04 Exploit resources

Your army may have managed to grab some lush new land for you, but all that conquering can be pretty expensive. The quickest way to raise funds is to create a lucrative trade network by exploiting the natural resources of the land you just claimed. The British Empire ran on trade, with trade links from Europe to Africa, Asia and North America.



05 Keep your people happy

Happy people are less likely to rebel. The Mongol and Rashidun Caliphate empires allowed freedom of religion, while the Romans were the first to provide public welfare and baths, where people could socialise and wash. Ignore any stirring of discontent at your own risk; if you can build an empire, someone else can just as easily topple it.



06 Divide, conquer, expand!

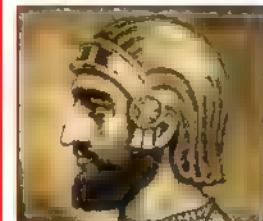
So you have your powerful army, content people and money pouring in from trade - what's next? Expansion, of course. You could move slowly like the British colonialists who set up overseas trading posts and just never left, or go in all guns (or scimitars) blazing like the Mongols. Be careful, though, the bigger an empire gets, the more difficult it is to manage.

4 EMPIRE BUILDERS

CYRUS THE GREAT

600-530 BCE, PERSIA

Founder of the Achaemenid Empire, Cyrus the Great expanded it into Southwest and Central Asia.



SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT

1494-1566, TURKEY

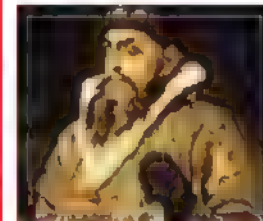
The longest-reigning sultan of the Ottoman Empire saw it claim Belgrade, Rhodes, Hungary and much of the Middle East.



IVAN THE TERRIBLE

1530-1584, RUSSIA

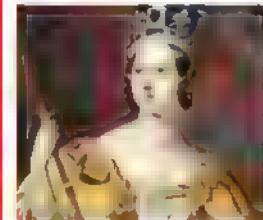
Ivan the Terrible's reign oversaw the expansion of the Russian Empire through the conquests of Siberia, Astrakhan and the Khanates of Kazan.



QUEEN VICTORIA

1819-1901, UNITED KINGDOM

Victoria ruled during the greatest expansion of the British Empire, and became the first empress of India in 1876.

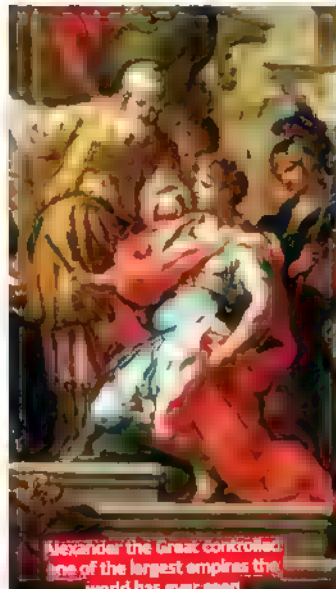


Empires across history

ALEXANDER CARVES A MIGHTY EMPIRE

GREECE 336 BCE

Stretching from Dodona and Ambracia in the west through to Amphipolis and then Byzantium in the east, the Macedonian Empire was one of the foremost in the world at the time of Philip II's death. His son, Alexander III - later known as Alexander the Great - had even grander ambitions, though. A series of major battles saw Alexander cut a path through Asia Minor, the Levant, Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia and finally Persia. With the Persian power broken, Alexander was left unchecked and proceeded to lay claim to a territory stretching from Greece to the Indian subcontinent.



Alexander the Great controlled one of the largest empires the world has ever seen.

The power of Persia begins

PERSIA 559 BCE

The Achaemenid Empire, which was the first imperial dynasty of the thousand-year-spanning Persian Empire, was begun by Cyrus II of Persia in 559 BCE. Cyrus assembled this first empire by military conquest, claiming first the Median Empire and then the Lydian and Neo-Babylonian Empires. While Cyrus founded the empire, he did not grow old in it, dying in battle against the peoples of the Massagetae. His son Cambyses II, however, did increase the size of his father's empire by conquering Egypt, Nubia and Cyrenaica.



The ruins of Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire.

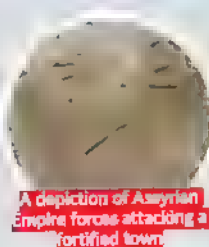
Empire timeline

Welcome to Akkad

The multi-lingual and multi-racial Akkadian Empire is formed around the capital city of Akkad, and stretches throughout Mesopotamia, the Levant and even parts of Iran. 2334 BCE

Say hello to the Hittites

An Anatolian people from the Bronze Age establish their empire around the city of Hattusa. The Hittites control most of Asia Minor and Upper Mesopotamia. 1600 BCE



A depiction of Assyrian Empire forces attacking a fortified town.

Babylonia rises

Following a successful rebellion against the waning Assyrian Empire that controls Babylon, the Babylonians split off and form their own Neo-Babylonian Empire. 612 BCE



The Ancient Romans completely destroyed the once-great city of Carthage.

Carthage burns

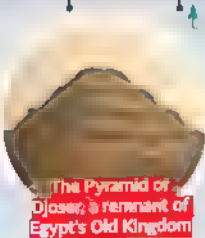
The once-mighty Carthaginian Empire falls with the destruction of Carthage by Ancient Rome, its last stand coming in the dramatic Battle of Carthage that sees almost 500,000 die. 146

An empire is divided

The Roman Empire is split into two parts, with the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire created. The capital of the latter is Constantinople, modern-day Istanbul. 395

A kingdom collapses

The powerful Old Kingdom of Egypt collapses with the death of Pepi II, with civil war and a severe drought bringing the once-mighty empire to its knees. 2181 BCE



The Pyramid of Giza, a remnant of Egypt's Old Kingdom.

Assyria expands

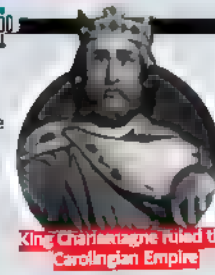
The Middle Assyrian Period begins, with the Assyrian Empire expanding rapidly thanks to hundreds of years worth of military conquest. 1392 BCE

The Republic falls

The Roman Republic falls, and after a civil war, is replaced with the Roman Empire under the control of Emperor Augustus. At its peak Rome controls most of the western world. 27 BCE

Now before the Sassanians

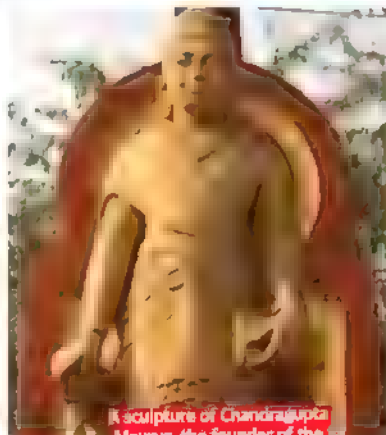
The Sassanian Empire is founded, the last Iranian empire to be created prior to the rise of Islam. It rules the region until 651. 224



King Charlemagne ruled the Carolingian Empire.

Charlemagne rules

Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, is crowned ruler of the Carolingian Empire, which at its height controls most of Western Europe including Germany, Italy and France. 800



A sculpture of Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of the Maurya Empire.

Maurya maximises

Often overlooked by the history books, the Maurya Empire was one of the largest ever. It stretched across Iron-Age India, the Indian subcontinent and, at its largest extent, from the Himalayas in the north to the east into Assam and west into modern-day Afghanistan. Its most famous ruler was Emperor Ashoka Maurya, who ruled from the capital city of Pataliputra (present-day Bihar). Ashoka was also a major figure in the introduction of Buddhism to India, converting in 263 BCE.



Trajan's column in Rome. Emperor Trajan oversaw the Roman Empire during its peak.

Rome hits its height

The Roman Empire was at its height during the reign of the relatively unknown Emperor Trajan. Trajan oversaw a serious period of military expansion that witnessed successful campaigns in Dacia and Parthia, and by the time of his death, the Roman Empire stretched from Britannia in the West right through to Babylonia in the East. Trajan also improved the quality of the existing Roman Empire by sanctioning an extensive public building programme.

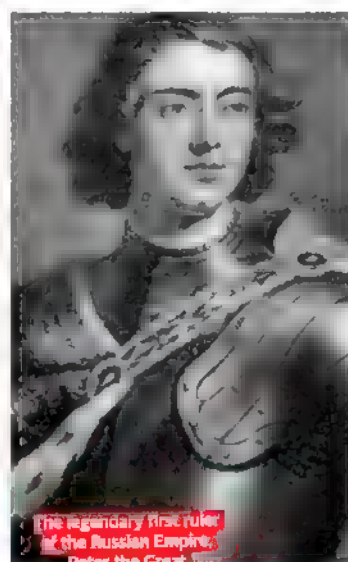
ETHIOPIA ENJOYS EMPERORS

ETHIOPIA 1137

Beginning in the mid-12th century and proceeding to fight on through right up until a military coup d'état saw its monarchy overthrown, the Ethiopian Empire was one of Africa's most long-lived realms. The empire consisted of all of present-day Eritrea and most of modern-day Ethiopia, with its most famous ruler, Queen Gudit, establishing it after the collapse of the earlier Aksumite Empire.



Haile Selassie I, the last king of the Ethiopian Empire



The legendary first ruler of the Russian Empire, Peter the Great

Russia plays Risk

RUSSIA 1721

A colossal empire that stretched three continents and was only surpassed in total controlled land mass by the British and Mongol Empires, the Russian Empire was a major world power for almost two centuries. Begun by legendary Russian ruler Peter the Great, who renamed the tsardom of Russia in the early 18th century the Russian Empire slowly engulfed

Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Finland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Poland and almost all of the Central Asian and Baltic states. At its peak in 1916 - a year before the famous February Revolution of 1917 - the Russian Empire ruled a population of over 180 million people.

Byzantium is broken

The Byzantine Empire finally falls when Latin crusaders sack Constantinople in 1204, with the Despotate of Morea in the Peloponnese the only territory that remains of Byzantium. **1204**

An Aztec alliance

The city-states of Tenochtitlan, Texcoco and Tlacopan join forces in the Mexican Triple Alliance to form the Aztec Empire. It controls the Valley of Mexico until its complete destruction by Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés. **1428**

The Ottomans outgrow themselves

The Ottoman Empire, an empire that has extended over three continents and become a naval power, begins to stagnate. A series of revolts finally leads to its 300-year decline. **1566**



A depiction of the Battle of Nicopolis, a key conflict in the growth of the Ottoman Empire

The Empire of Brazil arrives

A 19th-century state that incorporates both modern-day Brazil and Uruguay, the Empire of Brazil is created and ruled by Dom Pedro I and his son Dom Pedro II. **1822**

A great empire is brought low

Two atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to the surrender of Japan and the end of the Empire of Japan. Shigeru Yoshida is its last prime minister. **1947**



The Empire of Japan was brought to an end with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Mongol might

The Mongol Empire, which is built from 1206 onward under the iron fist of Genghis Khan, reaches its zenith, with a series of destructive wars leading to mass extermination and population decline. **1260**

Mughals arm themselves

The Mughal Empire starts taking over large parts of the Indian subcontinent. Rather than winning territory by war, the Mughals use diplomacy and revolutionary administrative practices. **1526**

Acts of Union are signed

The Kingdoms of England and Scotland are merged into a united kingdom referred to as Great Britain. This begins the formation of the British Empire, which will reach its zenith under Queen Victoria. **1707**

Prussia pigs out

The Prussian Empire reaches its peak, with the empire incorporating the Duchy of Saxe-Lauenburg, its capital is Berlin and its currency the Goldmark. **1866**



For the past 50 years the USA has arguably been the world's most dominant power

The USA is king

With the admission of Hawaii and Alaska into the United States of America, the USA's land mass is expanded. With the age of empires over, it becomes a global power dominating warfare, culture and information technology up to the present day. **1959**

Napoleon grabs himself an empire

FRANCE 1804

For the first 15 years of the 19th century, the Napoleonic Empire, an empire built upon the military genius of Napoleon Bonaparte, dominated Europe. At its height in 1812, Napoleon ruled over 44 million people across France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Portugal and Germany among others. The Napoleonic Empire finally fell with Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo against Wellington in 1815.



Napoleon Bonaparte forged a great empire for himself in the early years of the 19th century

All hail the Zulus

SOUTH AFRICA 1816

The Zulu Empire controlled much of the modern-day region of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. However, when the Zulu Empire eventually came into contact with the British Empire's presence in the province, the Anglo-Zulu War followed, where the Zulus were soon defeated by superior weaponry.



A depiction of the Battle of Isandlwana during the Anglo-Zulu War

Germany unifies

GERMANY 1871

Following the unification of Germany in 1871, the German Empire was formed from 27 constituent territories, each with their own ruling family. This empire's era came to an abrupt end in November 1918 when, following their loss in WWI, the realm's war-weary civilians overthrew the imperial government and replaced it with the short-lived Weimar Republic.

HELMET

MAXIMUM PROTECTION FOR THE CHOSEN FEW

Helmets were made from a variety of materials such as copper, bronze, animal skin or wood. Copper helmets were worn by high-ranking warriors, while regular fighters would wear wooden helmets, if they wore one at all. Sometimes these helmets were adorned with brightly coloured feathers that would also help to distinguish rank.

SHIELD

NOT MUCH USE AGAINST SPANISH GUNS, THOUGH

Most Inca shields were made from wood covered in leather or hide. These shields came in a variety of shapes such as square, round or rectangular and were usually used by high-ranking soldiers. As hand-to-hand fighting was the most common method for Inca armies, protection was of the utmost importance. The army was extremely well disciplined and very rarely broke formation when in battle.

TUNIC

COMFORTABLE BODY ARMOUR

Reserved for officers and noblemen, Inca tunics would be made from thick, padded cotton, plates of stone or metal were also used to protect the back and chest. These tunics were designed with specific insignia and colours corresponding to the region of the warriors, and would provide protection against wooden and stone weapons used by other South American warriors.

FRINGES

BUILDING UP THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMON MAN

Fringes of wool were worn on the biceps and below the knees. As any man between the ages of 25 to 50 could be selected to join the army, it was essential for all warriors to be fit and healthy. For lower-class citizens this offered a chance to rise through the social ranks while for nobles being chosen for military service was an honour.

JEWELLERY

THE BADGE OF NOBILITY

Many Inca warriors sported elaborate jewellery, which was a sign of nobility. High-ranking officers would wear discs of gold, silver or bronze on their chests or large gold earplugs that would stretch their lobes. Some soldiers who had shown immense bravery would be honoured with medals, but only nobles were allowed to wear gold.

WEAPON

FROM THE WELL-EQUIPPED INCA ARMOURY

Inca warriors carried a variety of weapons depending on their position in the battle. The front line were armed with slingshots and bows, behind them were warriors with clubs and axes, while at the back stood spear bearers. A popular Inca weapon was the bolas. It comprised of stones tied to the end of a rope, which was swung around and thrown at the enemy.

THE Anatomy of

AN INCA WARRIOR

**FIERCE AND HIGHLY DISCIPLINED
SOLDIERS OF THE MIGHTY INCA
EMPIRE SOUTH AMERICA, 1438-1533**

SANDALS

FUELLED BY LLAMAS

Warriors wore sandals crafted from untanned llama hide, but would also sometimes wear shoes made from braided fibre. As the Inca didn't have any horses or cows, llamas were essential for their survival in the Andes Mountains. Llamas would provide wool, food and transport, and nothing went to waste; they would even use their dung as fertiliser.

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Hall of Fame EMPIRE DESTROYERS

Meet the figures who, through their military might or courageous rebellions, toppled some of the mightiest empires and forever altered the history of the world

HERNÁN CORTÉS

CASTILIAN 1485-1547

Little is known of the personality of Hernán Cortés, and he has been labelled a hero of the Spanish people, as well as a demon who wrought death and destruction. However he is viewed, he is responsible for one of the most significant events in world history - the conquest of the Aztec Empire. The campaign, headed by Cortés, began in 1519, and after eight months of battles, Cortés took Emperor Moctezuma II captive and ruled through him. When the Aztecs rebelled, the emperor was killed and the resulting siege led to the capture of the capital city of Tenochtitlan in 1521 and the fall of the Aztec Empire.

During his military career, Cortés's nickname was 'Killer'



Although he is now a well-loved figure, Sun received much criticism during his lifetime

a plan to overthrow the dynasty. He soon found himself involved in revolutionary activity and in 1911 he led the Xinhai Revolution, a series of violent revolts and uprisings around the whole empire that eventually forced the six-year-old Emperor Puyi off the throne and established the Republic of China. Today Sun is a hugely revered figure in China, referred to as the 'Father of the Nation.'

Sun Yat-sen

CHINESE 1866-1925

For thousands of years the Chinese Empire passed from dynasty to dynasty, but it wasn't until 1912 that the imperial giant was finally brought to its knees. Sun Yat-sen, an intelligent and headstrong young man, grew discontented with the Qing Dynasty's aversion to the technological advances and knowledge of the Western modern world, so he developed

"Only powerful people have liberty" *Sun Yat-sen*

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

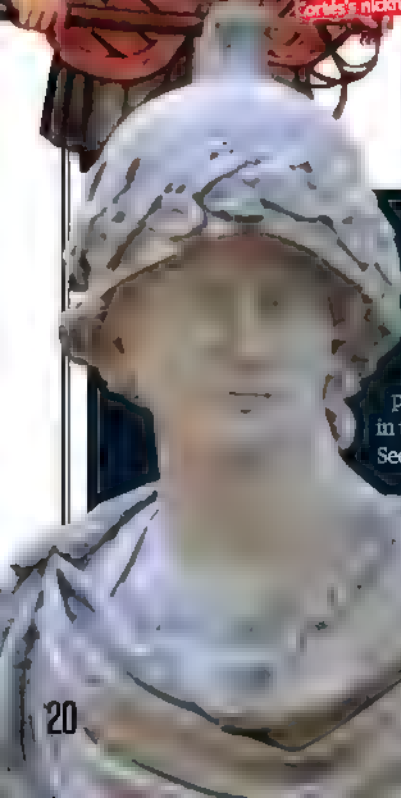
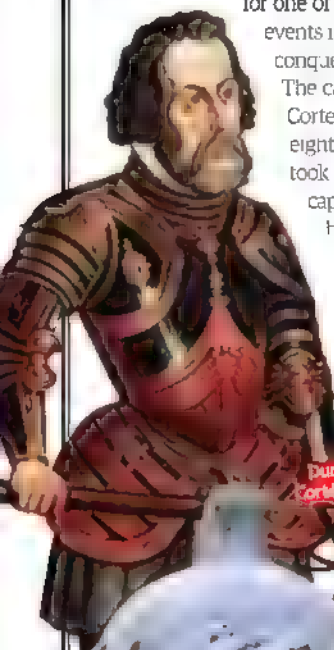
MACEDONIAN 356-323 BCE

The Achaemenid or Persian Empire was founded by Cyrus the Great in the 6th century BCE, and for hundreds of years it grew in size, eventually adding Egypt to its territories. Although ruled by a king, power was delegated to local governments, and it was this disunity in the empire that allowed Alexander the Great to ride in and snatch it. Seeking to reach the "ends of the world", the ambitious youth defeated the Persian army at Granicus, Issus and again at the dramatic showdown of Gaugamela, where Persian Emperor Darius III fled for his life and was later executed. Alexander proclaimed himself "King of Kings", but after his death his empire, including what he had claimed from Persia, crumbled apart.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

FRENCH 1769-1821

Comprising a collection of smaller kingdoms and created in an effort to revive the Western Empire of Rome, the Holy Roman Empire managed to survive for over a thousand years before it finally fell. After the French Revolutionary Wars, nationalism swept over France, and with the strength of their new leader, Napoleon, they finally had the power to realise their lofty ambitions of expansion. Napoleon set his sights on throwing Holy Roman Emperor Francis II off his throne. At the Battle of Austerlitz in 1806, the Holy Roman Empire was crushed by a powerful French force, and Francis II was forced to abdicate, setting the stage for French domination of Europe during the 19th century.



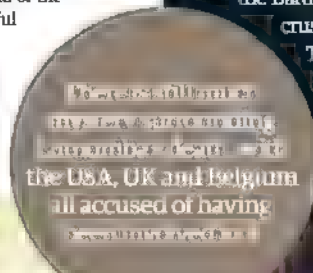


Patrice Lumumba

CONGOLESE 1925-1961

The Belgian colonial empire was unusual in that approximately 98 per cent of it comprised of just one colony - the Belgian Congo. After years of brutal rule, in 1960 a pro-independence movement spread across the colony. The head of the

movement, Patrice Lumumba, led a successful revolution and established independence, stripping Belgium of its largest and most profitable colony. Lumumba was elected as prime minister, but after 12 weeks his government was overthrown in a coup and Lumumba was executed.



Nader was born into abject poverty and had to support his mother alone aged just 13

Nader Shah

IRANIAN 1688-1747

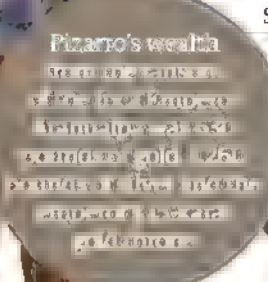
Known as 'Napoleon of Persia', Nader Shah led powerful and vicious conquests. He first rebelled against the Safavid dynasty which had been rulers of Iran since 1502, deposing the leaders in 1736 and proclaiming himself Shah. With his new power he led an invasion of the Mughal Empire of India and defeated them at the Battle of Karnal, sacking and looting the capital. This defeat was one the Mughal Empire was unable to recover from, and afterwards the British claimed the little land that remained.



FRANCISCO PIZARRO

SPANISH 1471-1541

The poor and illiterate Pizarro was driven to succeed and set his sights on Peru. Pizarro persuaded King Charles I to fund his expedition. He set up Spanish settlements in Peru and when the Inca emperor protested against this, Pizarro had him captured and executed. Later that year he took control of the capital, putting an end to the South American empire.



PETER THE GREAT

RUSSIAN 1672-1725

Peter was incredibly tall for the era, at 2.04m (6.7ft)

In the 17th and early-18th century, the Swedish Empire enjoyed a period of great power, with land from modern-day USA to Denmark and Finland. However, a new power loomed on the horizon - the Russian Empire led by Peter the Great. The two forces clashed at the Battle of Poltava, where Sweden was crushed by the Russian emperor. This was the beginning of Sweden's decline as a world power; it was swiftly replaced by Russia.

Odoacer was deceived and murdered at a banquet



Odoacer

GERMANIC 433-483

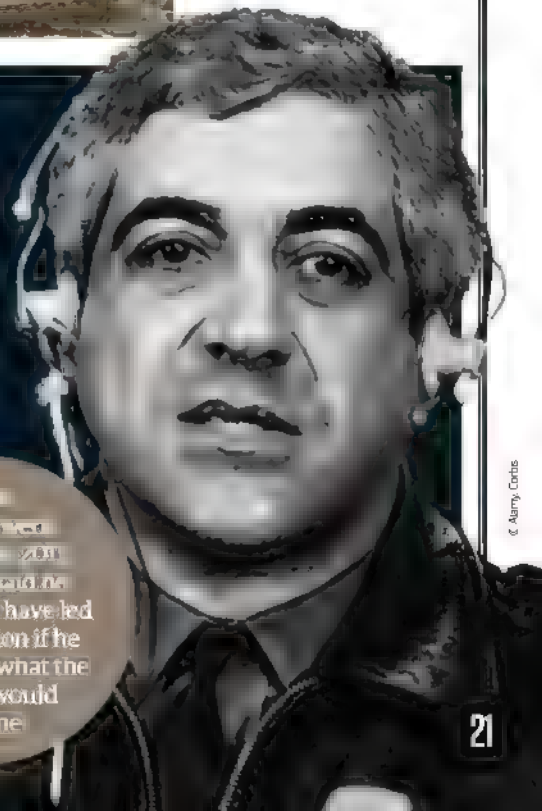
Odoacer was responsible for the destruction of one of the most powerful empires of all time - the Roman Empire. Although its power had slowly been eroded by civil wars and economic depression, it was the revolution led by Odoacer that marked the end of the Western Empire. In 476 Odoacer, a Roman army officer, demanded that Orestes, the head of the Germanic foederati of Italy, reward the army for their services by granting them lands in Italy. When he refused, Odoacer and his men killed Orestes and proceeded to capture the city of Ravenna and depose Emperor Romulus Augustus. Odoacer conquered the rest of Italy and was crowned as the first king of Italy. The Western Roman Empire never recovered from his deathblow.

OTELLO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO

PORTUGUESE 1936-PRESENT

Serving as a captain in the colonial wars in Africa, Carvalho joined Portuguese rebels. Discontent with military reforms, Carvalho became the chief strategist of the Carnation Revolution. Named for the flowers that were placed in the muzzles of rifles, the Carnation Revolution was a near-bloodless coup that put an end to the dictatorship and led to the end of the Portuguese Empire - with declarations of free speech, release of political prisoners and independence of overseas territories.

never would have led the revolution if he had known what the country would become





THE ASSYRIAN ARMY

THE BRUTAL FIGHTING MACHINE OF
THE ANCIENT WORLD, 911-605 BCE,
THE MIDDLE EAST

Of all the Mesopotamian empires, Assyria is often considered the greatest. At its height, it spread from Asia Minor in modern-day Turkey to Babylonia in today's Iraq and south to Egypt. The reason for its success was largely thanks to its incredibly powerful and efficient army. Rather than having soldiers that served for a short period of time, the Assyrians had a 200,000-strong standing army made up of skilled warriors and prisoners of war. These men fought on foot, horseback and in chariots, and were armed with spears, bows and slingshots. This combined with their brutal and relentless approach to combat made the Assyrian army a formidable force on the battlefield, and helped them to conquer even their most powerful enemies.

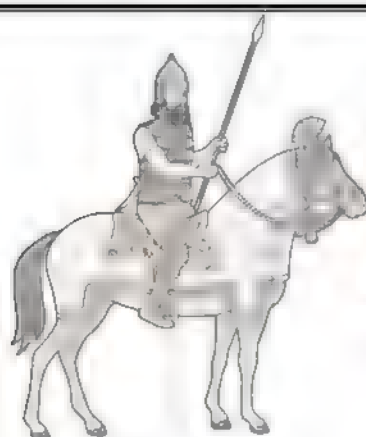
Cavalry

The Assyrians were the first to put bowmen on horseback. The heavy and light cavalry were by far the most important part of the army, due to their speed and mobility.

Chariots

The Assyrians developed heavy four-horse chariots with a four-man crew - often two elite warriors and their shield-bearers.





Heavy cavalry

Around 1,000 horses were used each month by the Assyrian army.



Sling throwers

When thrown at maximum power, these shots could be lethal.



Heavy infantry

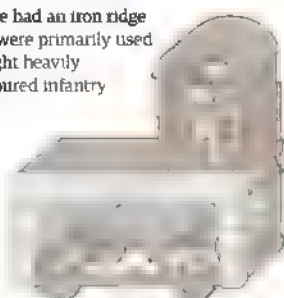
This was made up of warriors armed with a sword, lance and shield.

Bow and quiver

Bows were specially adapted to allow archers to shoot on horseback.

Mace

These had an iron ridge and were primarily used to fight heavily armoured infantry.



Siege masters

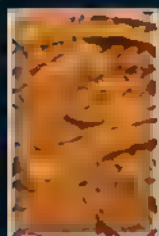
Assault towers and battering rams like the one pictured here allowed archers to be almost level with the defenders on the city walls.

Archers

The light infantry had strong bows from which they fired iron-tipped arrows with deadly accuracy.

Shield-bearers

Each archer or chariot driver was accompanied by a spearman, who held a large wicker shield to protect the warrior against enemy missiles.



How do we know this?

A lot of what we know about the Assyrian army has been gathered from the remains of stone reliefs, the most famous of which are found in the ruins of Nimrod, Khorsabad and Nineveh. These carvings depict the development of the empire's military, from light, unarmoured archers to heavy cavalry. You can learn more about the army and these reliefs in Tamas Dezzo's *The Assyrian Army: The Structure Of The Neo-Assyrian Army*.

Day in the life

A GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA

POLISHING THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, INDIA, 18TH-20TH CENTURY

When the British Empire was at its largest and most impressive, one territory was prized as the most valuable and crucial to its success - India. In order to ensure the smooth and efficient running of this gold mine of a country, a governor-general was put in charge. As the chief administrator and the sovereign's representative, the governor-general's job was an important and challenging one, and he faced immediate replacement if anything were to go wrong.

LOOK OVER THE FINANCES

Keeping a firm hold on the finances was key to keeping any rebellions from escalating. When John Macpherson took on the role of governor-general in 1785, the finances were in great disorder with a deficit of £1,300,000. He used the small amount of cash in the treasury to pay off the troops and prevent a mutiny. Over the next 12 months he was able to pay off the entire debt by keeping a careful watch on public expenditure.

SIT WITH THE COUNCIL

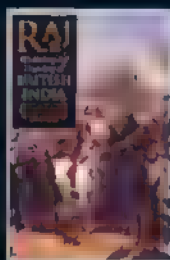
A governor-general didn't stand alone - he had a council of advisors to help him decide on legislation. The council comprised of only three members and the governor-general had an ordinary vote and a casting vote to break ties. The council's influence was diluted further in 1786 when the council decisions were reduced to advisory ones, so the governor-general did not have to follow them.

ATTEND A CEREMONY

Many governor-generals adopted the pomp and pageantry associated with Indian princes. The governor-general was expected to take part in many elaborate ceremonies, often seated on top of a grand elephant in a golden gilded seating platform. These grand displays would help to associate the governor-generals with the regal magnificence of the empire.

How do we know this?

There are plenty of diaries and journals written by the governor-generals themselves that give a glimpse into the world they inhabited and the demands of the role. These include papers from Lord Metcalfe and *The Private Journal Of The Marquess Of Hastings*. The individual biographies of the men who filled the role offer enlightening accounts of the daily life and challenges faced. *Dawning Of The Raj: The Life And Trials Of Warren Hastings* presents an illuminating account of the earliest days of British rule in India.



An illustration of the installation of the Nizam of Hyderabad by the governor-general of India



Governor Robert Clive meeting the Nawab of Bengal



WATCH OUT FOR ASSASSINS

The role of a governor-general was a powerful but dangerous one, especially as the Indian independence movement flourished. A governor-general had to be on high alert for any possible threats to their life. Hardinge was the target of multiple assassination attempts during his tenure from 1910 to 1916, and in 1872 Lord Mayo was assassinated by a convict with a knife.

MEET THE LOCALS

It was very important for the men to have an understanding of the country they ruled. Warren Hastings, who served as the first governor-general, set a precedent by making an effort to learn about India and mastering Urdu and Farsi. If a governor-general wished to be successful, they would set aside time to learn about the religious, social and legal customs of India by talking to its citizens.

QUELL REBELLIONS

The primary task of the governor-general was to maintain British control of the territories, so a lot of time was taken up attempting to repress various rebellions. When Charles Canning was faced with the Indian Rebellion of 1857, he responded calmly and swiftly and put an end to the uprising. He also established a more liberal policy that led to a period of contentment. Governor-generals had to treat any whispers of rebellion very seriously, or risk witnessing a mass uprising.

COMMAND THE ARMY

After Charles Cornwallis refused to accept the post of governor-general of India unless he was also offered military command, the right to supreme command was given to all governor-generals. Though some waived this right, many took the role head-on and led their forces in conflicts. A notable commander was Francis Rawdon-Hastings, who led the British East India Company to victory against the Gurkhas in 1816.

CONTACT THE QUEEN

India, as Queen Victoria put it, was the 'jewel in the crown' of the British Empire, and Victoria herself was given the title of the empress of India. Serving as governor-general of the country was an enormously important role, as the title-bearer was the monarch's representative in India. It was vital to keep in contact with the queen as well as the British government, keeping her updated on the situation in India. Governor-generals would write often to Her Royal Highness and meet with her whenever possible; after all, the sovereign had the power to remove him from his post if he was deemed unfit.

Top 5 facts THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

RULING THE ANCIENT WORLD OF THE MIDDLE EAST

01 THEY USED CATS TO WIN A BATTLE

Legend has it that during his conquest of Egypt, King Cambyses II employed a clever battle technique. Knowing cats were sacred to Egyptians, he had his soldiers carry felines onto the battlefield – the Egyptians wouldn't attack the animals and so victory fell to Persia.

02 Persian kings were often assassinated

A string of successions to the throne of the Persian Empire followed murder. After Xerxes I was murdered, Xerxes II ruled for 45 days before being killed by his half brother, who was then overthrown by his half-brother Darius II. Artaxerxes III took the throne by killing his brother's family, but was killed by his counsellor Bagoas, who was in turn murdered by Darius III, who ruled for some time before being killed by his cousin.

03 They had highway guards

The Royal Road or Kings Highway stretched for 2,698 kilometres (1,677 miles) from the capital of Susa to Sardis in Western Turkey. This complex system of roads was incredibly advanced, with patrols against bandits, stopping stations with fresh horses and underground cisterns with water. The Persian Empire was one of the first to utilise the horse for communication and transport.

04 It had an advanced system of rule

Although Persian rulers were the one and only authority with the title "king of kings", the expansive kingdom was divided into 20 provinces, each of which was ruled by a governor called satrap. The kings also sent "the king's ears", special royal spies, to secretly monitor the satraps, report back and make sure they were doing their jobs and not becoming too powerful for their own good.

05 Citizens enjoyed religious freedom

Although there was a central Persian religion – Zoroastrianism – many Persian kings had an open policy in which everyone was allowed to worship whatever god they followed, as well as continuing their own customs. This led the empire to be celebrated by the Jews, who were allowed to return to Israel after the Persians defeated the Babylonians, where many Jews had been held captive.



THE PERSIAN EMPIRE Persia, 500 BCE - 651 CE

Brief Bio

The first Persian Empire was founded by Cyrus The Great and was originally known as the Achaemenid Empire. Over several hundred years the empire expanded to become the largest the world had ever seen. During its height the Persian Empire was the most powerful state in the entire world, ruling over 44 per cent of the planet's population.

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PEARSON

Heroes & Villains Malcolm X

The political activist who challenged the conventions of race and religion amid the chaos of the civil-rights movement

Written by Dom Reeseigh-Lincoln

Born Malcolm Little on 19 May 1925, the man who would inspire generations first opened his eyes in a city already famed for its perpetual racial tensions. Omaha, the largest city in the state of Nebraska, had a history of clashes between black and white citizens dating as far back as the 1840s, and as the city grew, so did the issue. Omaha had its own chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and was home to the Hamitic League Of The World, an African-American nationalist movement. The city, and the state as a whole, also had ties to the Ku Klux Klan. It was a hotbed of racial aggression, and Malcolm's family was right in the heart of it.

His father Earle Little, was an outspoken member of the African-American community a man who wasn't afraid to express his opinions on the strife of his ethnic brothers and sisters. As a local leader of the Universal Negro Improvement Association he wore his beliefs on his sleeve, and it was a mind-set that permeated his entire family. As such a prominent figure in the black community, Earle regularly clashed with many white members of the local community - including members of the Klan. So defiant was Malcolm's father in the face of adversity that the Klan once even threatened to murder his entire family. The Littles had no choice but to flee, and little Malcolm was whisked off to a new life in Lansing, Michigan.

Their new life was far from peaceful, though, with Earle clashing with the Black Legion, a KKK splinter group famed for its ultra-violence toward ethnic minorities. In 1929 the Little family home was burnt to the ground, the family escaped relatively unscathed, but Earle was sure the Legion

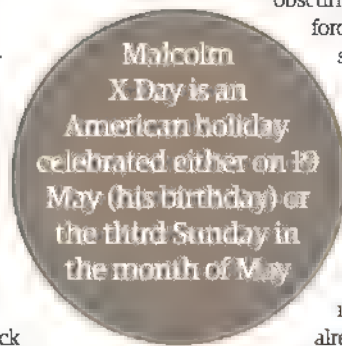
was behind it. Just two years later, Earle was run over and killed by a streetcar in Lansing. The official police report states it was accident, but Malcolm's mother is convinced her husband was murdered. It's a belief that would stay with her for her entire life, and one that would eventually contribute to her deteriorating mental health. To a young Malcolm Little it was a stark education in the realities of living as a coloured person in the early decades of the 20th century.

In the years that followed, the Littles continued to live through the segregation and second-class citizenship of the times. Without Earle's commanding presence the family sank back into

obscurity, with Malcolm and his brothers forced to hunt for game in the surrounding woodland to survive.

It was a tough life for any child, but Malcolm, now in his teens was fast becoming a young man with little fear of anything. The family managed to get by but tragedy struck yet again in 1937 when his mother Louise was committed to a mental institution. This event shattered the already splintering Little clan.

When one teacher remarked that his aspirations to become a lawyer were "no realistic goals for a nigger", he soon dropped out of high school. Despite his excellent grades, Malcolm felt he had no chance of succeeding in a world controlled by white men. With little keeping him in Lansing anymore, Malcolm slowly drifted into a life of petty crime and soon after became involved in drug dealing, racketeering, theft and more. He lost himself in the simple acts of power, the crimes getting constantly more audacious and dangerous. Eventually the number of thefts caught up to them and Malcolm was arrested and sentenced to eight to ten years in prison for larceny.



Life in the time of Malcolm X

Rights for students

In 1951, black students and members of the NAACP began protesting over the continued segregation between white and black children and young adult in schools, colleges and universities around the country. After four years of legal battles, the US Supreme Court ruled that segregation had "a detrimental effect upon the coloured children".

Montgomery Bus Boycott

Nine months after a 15-year-old African-American student refused to give up her seat to a white passenger, civil-rights activist Rosa Parks also made the same statement. She was arrested and charged with civil disobedience, which led her fellow activists (including minister Martin Luther King Jr) to boycott the use of local buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

Desegregation in Little Rock

In September 1957, the small town of Little Rock, Arkansas, was all over the news. Nine African-American students who had sued for the right to attend an integrated school found none other than the National Guard waiting to prevent their entry into the school. Ordered there by the governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, it took the intervention of President Eisenhower to force Faubus to stand down.

Riding to freedom

One of the most significant activist statements of the civil-rights movement were the Freedom Rides. Conducted in 1961, the event consisted of white and African-American activists travelling on interstate buses to challenge the continued - and more importantly unconstitutional - segregation on public buses in the Deep South.

Civil Rights Act of 1964

After years of protests, demonstrations and legal action, the wheels for sociopolitical change were finally turning by the mid-1960s. President John F Kennedy had initially made attempts to push through such legislation prior to his assassination, but was blockaded by filibuster-threatening senators. His successor, Lyndon B Johnson, eventually forced it through and signed it into law on 2 July 1964.





After returning
from his pilgrimage to
Mecca, Malcolm X also
took the name El-Hajj
Malik El-Shabazz

"Despite his
excellent grades,
Malcolm felt he had
no chance of succeeding
in a world controlled by
white men"

Marked bullet holes in the wall at the site where Malcolm X was killed, during his address to the Organization of Afro-American Unity



The civil-rights movement

In the years Malcolm X was forming his thoughts and beliefs on a pilgrimage to Mecca, his fellow African-Americans back in the United States were on the precipice of a social and political revolution. Ever since Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, African-Americans had earned their freedom but the lasting, enabling importance of basic civil rights still eluded them. The civil-rights movement, which ran from 1954 to 1968, would change the very fabric of American society forever.

For almost 100 years, African-Americans were technically free, but treated as second-class citizens, with segregation between blacks and whites so common it filtered everywhere from schools to restaurants and cafes. The frustrations of an entire people formed the fire of the civil-rights movement, a collective with the sole aim of ending segregation and ensuring civil rights for all American citizens in constitutional law. It began with a mixture of nonviolent protests and bouts of civil disobedience, as well as the semi-militarisation of the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) that protected African-American families in the South.

The civil-rights movement had many famous faces, including Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks, Andrew Goodman and Malcolm X himself. Many of them gave their lives in the pursuit of their freedoms, with their efforts leading to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Timeline

1925

● Malcolm X born

Born Malcolm Little at University Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, he is the fourth of seven children. His father, Earl Little, is a baptist lay speaker, while his mother, Louise Norton Little, is a stay-at-home parent.
19 May 1925

● Louise Little committed

After dating a local man for a few months, Louise Little becomes pregnant. The man then vanishes once he learns of the pregnancy, causing her to have a nervous breakdown. She's committed to State Mental Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan.
1938-1939

● Avoids military service

At the age of 18, Malcolm moves to New York. He's drafted to the US Army, but is deemed unsuitable for service. Rumours claim he feigned a mental condition to avoid being drafted into service during WWII.
1943

● Serving time

After getting involved in the criminal underworld, Malcolm commits a number of burglaries in and around Boston in 1945. In 1946 he's convicted of larceny (unlawful taking of another's property) and is sent to Charlestown State Prison, Boston.
1946

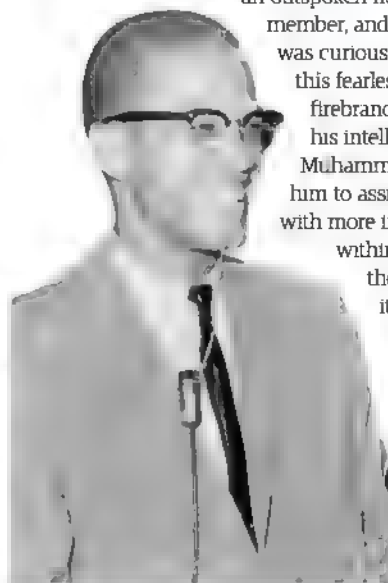
● Preaching across the US

Elijah Muhammad elevates Malcolm X to the influential position of minister and sends him to preach at a number of newly opened temples. Over the next two years he spreads the NO word in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.
1953-1955

Left raw and angry by his experiences as a child and a young man, the future civil-rights leader was at a crossroads. While serving time he discovered the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, the leader of a new religious movement, the Nation Of Islam (NOI). Its central pillars of paying homage to their African routes and building a community tempered by black self-reliance inspired Malcolm to convert. In 1950, the same year the FBI opened a file on Malcolm, he shed his surname and adopted the letter 'X'. This was used to symbolise the unknown slaves who were ripped from the heart of Africa.

Upon his release from prison in 1952, Malcolm travelled to Chicago to meet with the NOI's leader in person. During his incarceration, he had become

an outspoken new member, and Elijah was curious to meet this fearless young firebrand. Impressed with his intelligence and tenacity, Muhammad swiftly promoted him to assistant minister. Now with more influence and standing within the movement, the FBI increased its surveillance of Malcolm, shifting its focus from possible communist ties to



At the age of 20, Malcolm X was convicted of larceny and sentenced to prison

his rapid ascent in the NOI. However, to his fellow members he was a breath of fresh air, a man not afraid to look racists in the eye and denounce their arbitrary views.

The Nation Of Islam had now become infamous for its radical views. Its ministers preached that black people were the first people of the world, superior in every way to whites. While civil-rights organisations fought to destroy segregation,

the NOI actively sought it. Malcolm

X was now a regular face in the public eye following the Johnson Hinton incident. When the police assaulted Hinton, a black Muslim, Malcolm led a 2 000-strong crowd to the police station to demand he receive medical attention, when the demands were met, upon a word from Malcolm the crowd left peacefully. It was a sign of his growing power and he used

his increased media profile to openly denounce other civil-rights movements for their message of protest through nonviolence, stating: "I am for violence if nonviolence means we continue postponing a solution to the American black man's problem just to avoid violence". Malcolm's ethos of "by any means necessary" made him an imposing and inflammatory figure to white Americans and those in the African-American community who disagreed with him.

After describing the assassination of President John F Kennedy as a sign of white Americas

"He stressed the need for African-Americans to exercise their right to vote"

Defining moment

Malcolm's father killed 1931

Aged six, a young Malcolm Little enrolls at Pleasant Grove Elementary School in Michigan. That same year, his father is killed after being struck by a speeding streetcar. The official report states it was an accident, but Malcolm's mother Louise is convinced it was murder. His father had been an outspoken leader of the local Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), so rumours run rife that members of the Black Legion had organised a hit on Earle to get rid of a black pride activist. His father had taken out life insurance before his murder but the money is never paid out to the family.

● Converts to Nation Of Islam

During the early years of his sentence, Malcolm becomes aware of the Nation Of Islam, a religious movement originating in the US. He converts and finds inspiration from the words of the leader, Elijah Muhammad.
1947



"chickens coming home to roost", the NOI suspended Malcolm, keen to distance itself from the national outcry his publicised words had caused. NOI leader Elijah Muhammad had also grown anxious over Malcolm's popularity in the organisation, fearing his own candidacy would soon be challenged. Soon after, Malcolm announced he was leaving the movement.

After leaving the Nation, Malcolm gave his infamous 'The Ballot Or The Bullet' speech, in which he stressed the need for African-Americans to exercise their right to vote and seek full equality. While Malcolm did urge members of the black community to, "take arms", he was not urging his brothers and sisters to attack white people. He felt the government was not actively protecting his people from attacks, and so believed they should arm themselves and defend their lives until the government was willing to acknowledge the problem and protect them. During this time Malcolm converted to Sunni Islam, the largest and most common branch of Islam.

A month later, in April 1964, Malcolm left the US on a pilgrimage to Mecca. While there he had an epiphany: he had finally seen the Islamic faith for what it was. Not an armour with which to cocoon one's self in, but a means of bringing the people of the world together. It was the biggest transformation in Malcolm's mind-set since his conversion to the NOI in prison, but it would also prove to be the one that sealed his fate.

Upon his return to the United States, Malcolm had become a sworn enemy of the NOI. While his desire to see the equality and constitutional safety of African-Americans was still the central goal that drove him, his beliefs in the means

The discrimination toward black people in the US led to a mass civil-rights movement



He inspired Cassius Clay to convert to Islam and become Muhammad Ali

to get there had changed. He embraced the peaceful doctrines of Sunni Islam and preached the importance of all Americans, regardless of race, religion or background, working together to achieve equality. For the next 12 months, Malcolm, his wife Betty and his six daughters lived a life under constant threat, but they all knew the importance of pressing forward.

By the beginning of 1965, Malcolm's wife had even contacted the FBI directly, telling them that her husband was "as good as dead" following his refusal to back down in the face of the Nation's death threats. Despite the dangers, Malcolm still campaigned tirelessly, conducting speeches and

rallies across the country. On 21 February 1965, Malcolm addressed the Organization of Afro-American Unity at the Audubon Ballroom in New York. Suddenly, someone in the 400-strong crowd shouted, "Nigga, get your hands out of my pocket!" Malcolm and his bodyguards waded into the crowd to quell the disturbance as three men opened fire on him with a sawed-off shotgun and automatic pistols. Malcolm was struck 21 times and was pronounced dead shortly later.

He may have been prematurely removed from the world, but Malcolm X made an impact that's still felt today. While his views were often controversial, no one can deny his bravery in fighting against the establishment for much-needed change.

Defining moment

Freedom at last 1952

After serving six years of his eight to ten-year sentence for larceny, Malcolm is released from prison. Having become a dedicated follower of the Nation Of Islam, Malcolm soon comes to the attention of Elijah Muhammad. He meets with Muhammad in Chicago and few weeks later is appointed an assistant minister for the movement. Around this time he abandons his birth name Little and starts using the surname X. Around this time the FBI also creates a file for him, following a letter he writes to President Truman opposing to the Korean War.



Defining moment

Assassinated in Manhattan 21 Feb 1965

Following a pilgrimage to Mecca the year before, Malcolm returns a far less radical man. He begins denouncing any form of violence and urging people of all colours to work together to attain civil rights for all. He receives death threats from a number of more radical Islamic groups, including outspoken members of the Nation Of Islam. His wife Betty even contacts the FBI and tells them her husband is "as good as dead." While preparing to address an Organization of African-American Unity rally in Manhattan, Malcolm is shot dead by angry militants. Three men are arrested and sentenced to life in prison.

Johnson Hinton Incident

Four members of the Nation Of Islam are beaten with nightsticks by New York police officers. After the men are arrested, Malcolm arrives with a crowd of some 4,000 NOI followers and force the police to give them medical attention. Covered by national news, it is the first time Malcolm permeates the public eye. **26 April 1957**

Malcolm meets Betty

In 1955, Malcolm meets Betty Sanders at one of his lectures. A year later she joins the Nation Of Islam and takes the symbolic surname X as the two continue to court. In January 1958 Malcolm proposes over the phone and they marry two days later. **January 1958**



Courting infamy

Following the assassination of John F. Kennedy, reporters approached Malcolm X for a comment on the event and he described it as "chickens coming home to roost." The comments cause national outrage and he is barred from representing the Nation Of Islam. **1 December 1963**

Leaving the NOI

Malcolm splits from the NOI and soon converts to Sunni Islam. He meets Martin Luther King Jr for the first and only time at a Senate debate on the Civil Rights Bill. At this time he also urges African-Americans to be prepared to take arms if their voting rights are not protected. **8 March 1964**

1965

Bluffer's Guide The Knights Templar

1119-1312, EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST

Who were the Knights Templar?

Only existing knights (heavy cavalry) or sergeants (light cavalry) could become full warrior Templars. Jerusalem's king, Baldwin II, and Garmond, the city's Latin patriarch, approved the first Templars, nine knights, all blood or marriage relatives. Another relative, the Benedictine abbot Bernard of Clairvaux, championed the Templars, and by 1130 many new members were recruited during a tour of Europe by Hugh de Champagne, lord of Hugh de Payens, the founding grand master

What was it?

The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon (or Knights Templar) was an elite military order formed in France to protect Christian pilgrims travelling to Jerusalem and defend the Holy Land from Muslim armies. Templars upheld the ideals of a religious knighthood.

When were they formed?

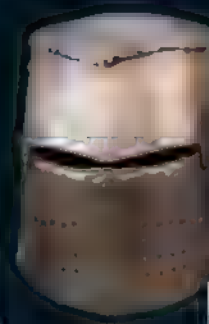
Following the recapture of Jerusalem from Seljuk Muslims in 1099 by Roman Catholic Crusaders, weak Holy Land Christian states appealed to Europeans to bolster their populations. The massacre of hundreds of pilgrims at the Jordan River in Easter 1119 by Saracens, and the capture of Christian leaders in Nablus, necessitated better protection, hence the Templars' formation in the same year.



A depiction of the pivotal Battle of Hattin, in which Knights Templar played a key role against Saladin's army

Shock tactics

Templars made up for their inferior numbers on the battlefield by acting as shock troops, charging into and scattering enemy lines so allied troops could capitalise on the confusion they caused. They would not retreat unless outnumbered by more than three-to-one, earning the respect of both sides in fights such as the Battle of Montgisard in 1177.



A Knights Templar's helmet

Charges of blasphemy

A major accusation against the Templars during their trials was that they worshipped a mummified head known as Baphomet. In the church of Templecombe in Somerset there is a panel painting of a severed head, which may represent John the Baptist, dating to when the Templars had a preceptory in the village.

Decline and fall

By the 14th century, the Templars were papal treasurers. Controversy over a loan to Philip IV of France hurt their standing with Pope Clement V. Philip's spies infiltrated the order, heretical rumours abounded, and in 1307 the king had every Templar in France arrested, tried, and either executed or quietly moved into other orders.

Beyond state control

A series of extraordinary measures over the 12th and 13th centuries gave the Templars autonomy from church control, freedom to cross borders as they liked, and even exemption from paying taxes. While this made them virtually a 'state within a state', the power afforded them also sowed the seeds of their downfall.

Becoming a Knights Templar was considered a great honour

Protecting sacred secrets?

The Templars' association with the Holy Grail, the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper, traces back to Wolfram Von Eschenbach's *Parzifal*. In this 13th-century epic romance, the Grail is housed in a temple kept by 'templeise', translated as Templars. *Parzifal* was influenced by an epic written by Chretien de Troyes, who was a relative of Grand Master Hugh de Payens.

The ultimate relic

Another persistent legend makes them custodians of the Shroud of Turin, the cloth apparently displaying an image of the crucified Jesus. One theory is the shroud was folded and framed to show only the head, and this may have prompted the suspicion that they venerated a 'severed head'.



Key figures

Hugh de Payens

Ca 1070-1136
Founder and first grand master. He co-wrote the *Latin Rule*, the order's ethical code.

Bernard of Clairvaux

1090-1153
The energetic and mystic abbot who co-wrote the *Latin Rule* with de Payens and expanded the austere Cistercian Order.

Baldwin II, king of Jerusalem

Reigned 1118-1131
Granted the Templars quarters in the ruins of Solomon's Temple, from which they took their name.

Pope Innocent II

Pope from 1130-1143
His papal bulls gave the Templars autonomy from the Catholic Church and exempted them from paying taxes.

Jacques de Molay

Ca 1243-1314
The last grand master, tried and executed on false charges of heresy and blasphemy.

Major events

The Templars rise

1119-1120
Nine knighted relatives from the Champagne region join to protect pilgrims on journeys to the Holy Land.

Every perfect gift

1129-1139
The order is officially endorsed and later granted religious and financial independence from the Catholic Church.

A famous victory

25 November 1177
Around five hundred knights help defeat Saladin's army of over 26,000 soldiers at the Battle of Montgisard.

Thirst and massacre

4 July 1187
Weakened by the arid hill country of Galilee, Templars are massacred by Saladin's army in the Battle of Hattin.

Rout at Acre

4 October 1189
Saladin's army is repelled after many Christian deaths, including Grand Master Gerard de Ridefort.

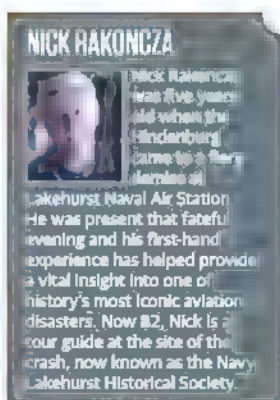
Eye Witness
HINDENBURG DISASTER



Eye Witness

HINDENBURG DISASTER, UNITED STATES, 6 MAY 1937

Written by Dom Reseigh-Lincoln



“I often wonder how many of the people in the ship waving to me were not alive that next morning”

In early-May 1937, airship D-LZ 129 Hindenburg sets off from Rio de Janeiro on a three-day journey to Europe. At only two years old it's one of the largest airships floating in the skies of the world, ferrying passengers with the money and the taste for a more luxurious means of travel. But as it sets down in Germany for a brief stopover before heading for North America, no one knows its next voyage will end in tragedy.

While the fiery descent of the Hindenburg over Lakehurst Naval Air Station is far from the worst airship disaster of its age (the loss of the USS Akron over the coast of New Jersey, which left over 70 people dead in 1933, is considered the most catastrophic), it remains one of the best known. Its spectacular conflagration has been immortalised in photos and radio coverage and its demise signified a turning point in airship popularity. Aviation historian Nick Rakoncza was one of those people who looked to the skies on that fateful night, and it's an event that's stayed with him his whole life.

"The day is warm and sunny with no wind, if my memory serves me well," he recalls. "It's late in the afternoon and my mother tells me we're going downstairs to see the Hindenburg. We live in a small apartment on the second floor of a townhouse, so it's quite a way for me to walk at such a young age. I tell her 'okay' trying to figure out what she was talking about. I'm only five and a half years old at the time so my worldly knowledge is obviously limited. 'What was a Hindenburg?' I wondered, 'and what was so important about it?'"

The Hindenburg, as it turns out, is quite the famous airship. Originally designed in 1931 by German airship manufacturer Luftschiffbau Zeppelin GmbH, it's the flagship of its class, dwarfing all other aircraft at a staggering 245 metres (803.8 feet) in length and 41.2 metres (135.1 feet) in diameter. Rather than using the highly flammable gas helium, the Zeppelin company chose to use the less dangerous (but substantially heavier) gas hydrogen instead.

By the time it sets off from Rio de Janeiro on the beginning of its final voyage, the Hindenburg has completed 17 transatlantic flights. Even though engine-based aircraft are slowly becoming a more commercially viable means of travel, the Hindenburg is still the domain of rich socialites. So as it approaches New Jersey local families from miles around gather with news crews to witness an aviation celebrity descend from the sky.

"Not wanting to get left behind, I follow my mother downstairs and across the street to a coal yard owned by people with whom we were friendly", remembers Nick. "We're invited to sit on top of an icehouse, which is not unlike an ammunition bunker. It's an odd sight to say the least, but it's a perfect place to watch the airship come in to land. There's a real sense of growing excitement. People from all around the neighbourhood are gathering to watch. The vans from local newsrooms whizz past as fast as ambulances, racing to the reach the airfield in time."

It was then that the giant airship finally came into view. "After a short while, someone points to a dot

Timeline of an aviation disaster

- 3 May 1937**
- 2:00pm** **The takeoff**
After a round trip to Rio de Janeiro and two test flights, the Hindenburg takes off from an airfield in Germany.
 - 4:00pm** **While travelling over the Atlantic, the Hindenburg encounters no real trouble but takes a detour near New Jersey to avoid storms.**
 - 6:22pm** **Hindenburg heads toward Lakehurst Naval Air Station. Its 36 passengers and 61 crew members are now late by almost half a day.**
 - 7:00pm** **At an altitude of 200m (650ft), the Hindenburg approaches Lakehurst. The captain is scheduled to conduct a high landing.**
 - 7:09pm** **Ground crew unprepared**
Despite the delays already clocked, the Hindenburg makes a full-speed left turn because the ground crew is not ready.
 - 7:11pm** **The Hindenburg is given the all clear and the captain orders the ship back toward the landing strip.**
 - 7:17pm** **The wind shifts direction and the captain orders the ship take another sharp left turn.**
 - 7:18pm** **Tanks of water are emptied from the ship as it's too heavy to attempt a flying moor.**
 - 7:21pm** **The mooring lines are dropped to the ground as a light rain begins to fall.**
 - 7:25pm** **Witnesses note the fabric of the ship beginning to flutter, suggesting a gas leak is passing through the airship's main structure.**
 - 7:25pm** **Fire spreads**
An intense fire is now spreading across the port side of the Hindenburg, consuming the fabric around the hull.
 - 7:26pm** **A fuel and water tank suddenly burst out of the hull. The passenger deck is quite severely cracked from the explosion.**
 - 7:28pm** **The stern implodes with great force and the Hindenburg loses buoyancy, forcing the tail of the ship down.**
 - 7:29pm** **Flames burst through the inside of the airship, killing nine of the 12 crew. Some of the passengers leap from the ship and perish in the fall.**
 - 7:30pm** **With fuel cells still exploding, the stern of the ship eventually strikes the ground. One crewman on the ground is killed during the impact.**
 - 7:30pm** **Crash landing**
The airship has crashed to the ground, with emergency services trying to save crew and passengers from the fiery wreckage.

over Staten Island, New York, which certainly doesn't impress me", laughs Nick. "The dot gradually becomes larger as it flies over the K.J. Van Kull waterway (The Dutch originally settled in much of the area, hence the name) and finally over Woodbridge, New Jersey. As it gets closer, I can hear the heavy drone of the big diesel engines. They're so loud! I remember covering my ears to begin with, but I soon get used to it. As it continues toward us, it flies almost overhead at about 120 metres (400 feet) or less in altitude and about 30 degrees down



The charred frame of the Hindenburg on the day after its fatal crash at Lakehurst Naval Station

from my location. It fills the sky above me like nothing I'd seen before"

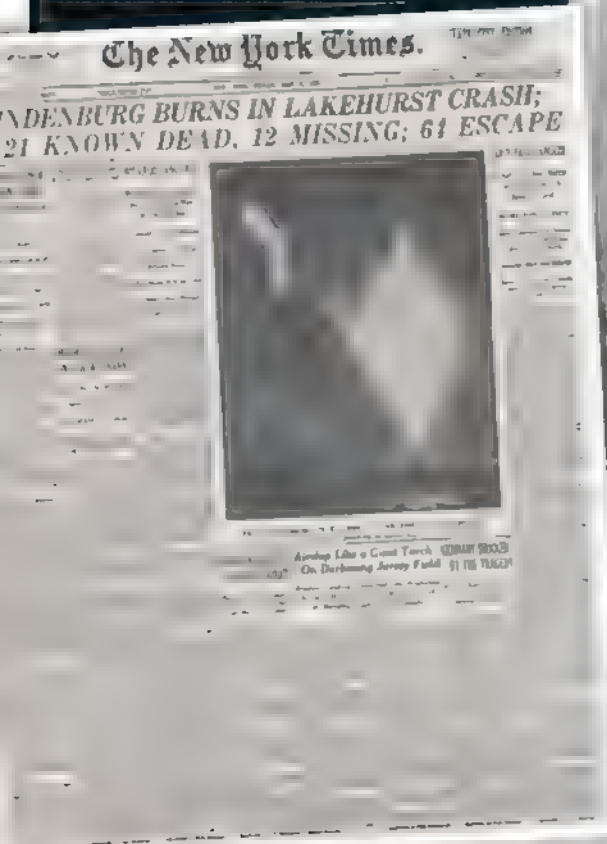
As the airship passes overhead and into the airfield proper, a light rain begins to fall. Inside the airship, the crew of the Hindenburg is preparing to throw down the mooring lines. The passengers, excited to finally arrive at their destination after a long journey, wave happily to the folks below. "The observation deck windows are open and the passengers whose faces I could see are waving handkerchiefs, hats and hands and, being a nice little guy, I smile and wave back," remembers Nick. "Now I am impressed and wonder how something so big stays floating in the air. It continues west over the nearby hill and out of sight."

The Hindenburg, carrying 36 passengers and 61 crewmen, had enjoyed a fairly unremarkable journey from Germany. It was already fully booked for its return journey to Europe a day later, with plans to arrive in time for the coronation of King George VI in London. Its trip to the United States was something of a low-key affair in comparison to its other voyages, but it still attracted considerable media attention from across the country. The cameras were already pointed to the sky as the Hindenburg approached the airfield. The captain, Max Pruss, decided the Hindenburg would attempt a high landing (otherwise known as a flying moor, where a blimp drops its mooring ropes from a high altitude before being pulled down to the ground), however the crew weren't ready, so Captain Pruss ordered the pilot to take the airship on a loop around the airfield. Upon its second attempt to set up for a landing, the airship slowed down and released some of its gas reserves. At a

"The bow lurched up and the airship was now descending tail first toward the airfield. As cameras started to roll the stern hit the ground"



The front page of *The New York Times* the day after the disaster note the lower death toll that was initially reported



height of around 120 metres (400 feet) the Hindenburg prepared for its landing, but a shift in the wind forced Pruss to order the airship on another circuit of the airfield. After nearly 20 minutes of delay, the Hindenburg was finally ready to land.

It was then the crowds on the ground near the landing site began to realise something was going terribly wrong. The fabric of the airship was starting to ripple violently from its stern to its bow, with some onlookers remarking at flashes of blue light near its tail fin – some onlookers remarked that it was static electricity, while others thought it might be St Elmo's Fire, a type of atmosphere anomaly. The mood of the crowd had now shifted from enraptured excitement to taut apprehension. Young Nick, now back home, could sense something was awry over at the airfield. "It's way past my bedtime, but getting to sleep is a big problem. About three blocks from us, there's Route 35, the main highway south, and from there I can hear the wailing of sirens. My father recognises them as ambulances and fire trucks. I can hear my mother speaking to our neighbours down the hall so I slink out of bed and creep to the window. Over the hill beyond our suburb, the sky isn't dark and black. It's bright orange, as if someone had set the horizon on fire."

Nick was right; tragedy was indeed striking a few miles away. The tail of the Hindenburg had now caught fire as a muffled explosion rocks the back of the blimp. The fire began to spread across the whole craft, causing a fuel tank to burst from the hull like a missile. The exploding stern sent the buoyancy of the

airship haywire. The bow lurched up and the airship was now descending tail first toward the airfield. As cameras started to roll the stern hits the ground, the intense explosion that followed killing nine of the 12 crewmen instantly, as well as a crewman on the ground. Passengers and members of the crew leaped from the slowly descending airship, many willing to risk the great fall rather than remain on the fiery giant. Some survived the fall, but others weren't so fortunate. A considerable amount of gas remained in the front section of the blimp so the bow continued to point upward as the stern collapsed. The disaster continued as the passenger deck disintegrated, trapping passengers in the intense, merciless heat. The remains of the gondola hit the ground, causing the final fuel cell to blow. As the Hindenburg finally came to a standstill, the hydrogen and diesel continued to burn for hours afterward.

While the death toll was not the highest for an airship disaster of this type, it was still plastered across wirelenses and newspapers across the world. Recalling that fateful night, Nick Rekoncza can still picture those happy passengers waving from the passenger decks. "I often wonder how many of the people in the ship waving to me were not alive that next morning", he says. "They all looked so happy to be home and that image has stayed with me my whole life."

Have you witnessed a landmark event in history?

Tell us about it at...

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This picture shows the Hindenburg gliding over New York earlier in 1937



The Hindenburg legacy

Even before that fateful night in New Jersey, the prominence of airship travel was beginning to fade from the public mind. And while it would take the catalyst of a second global conflict to really accelerate its industry, traditional aeroplane designs were already becoming much cheaper to manufacture, as well providing a more financially viable option for public use. The fiery end of the Hindenburg – and the 35 passengers and crewmen who perished along with it – simply signified the end of a costly and inherently dangerous transport era. Despite a relatively low death toll, the wide news coverage of the event helped elevate the disaster to almost iconic status. Much like the loss of the Titanic, the Hindenburg disaster lives on in industrial infamy.



Two bloodied passengers are tended to in the aftermath of the disaster

© Alamy Corbis

LONG FIREARMS

With the advent and evolution of long-range rifles, warfare became more detached and less personal, but much more effective. Follow this bloody evolution here



The arquebus introduced the matchlock firing action to long firearms

FIRE LANCE 1260

The first long firearm to be used by humans, the fire lance consisted of a long, hollowed-out bamboo tube filled with gunpowder and a sharp projectile such as a spear. When the gunpowder was ignited by a fuse, the spear would be propelled out of the tube in the manner of a harpoon, spearing whoever was unfortunate enough to be positioned in front of it. Despite the ingenuity of the weapon - which was created by the ancient Chinese - its range was short, it needed to be operated in two-man teams, and it was difficult to reload during battle

The fire lance and arrow were pioneering weapons, but were soon superseded



Toyotomi Hideyoshi matchlock rifle

MUSKET 1500

One of the most famous long firearms of all time, the musket was a muzzle-loaded, smoothbore weapon that introduced and used a variety of firing mechanisms through its evolution. The musket, which fired a variety of ball calibres ranging from 1.3 to two centimetres (0.5-0.8 inches), offered far greater stopping power when compared to the arquebus, but was longer and heavier, often requiring the weapon's barrel to be supported with a stand to ensure decent shot accuracy. The weapon's ease of use saw it incorporated by infantry units worldwide, with the most prestigious units known as musketeers.

ARQUEBUS 1450

The forerunner of the musket, the arquebus - which translates as 'hook gun' - was one of the earliest muzzle-loading long firearms. The key feature that made the arquebus a significant upgrade over the hand cannon was the introduction of the matchlock firing action, which removed the need for a firer to use one of his hands to light the weapon's priming powder manually, granting them the ability to hold the weapon with both hands and therefore increase firing accuracy. Against unarmoured opponents, the small iron balls the weapon fired were deadly, but a steel plate could stop the low-velocity rounds at all but point-blank range.



The hand cannon could fire a variety of ammunition, ranging from stones to iron arrows

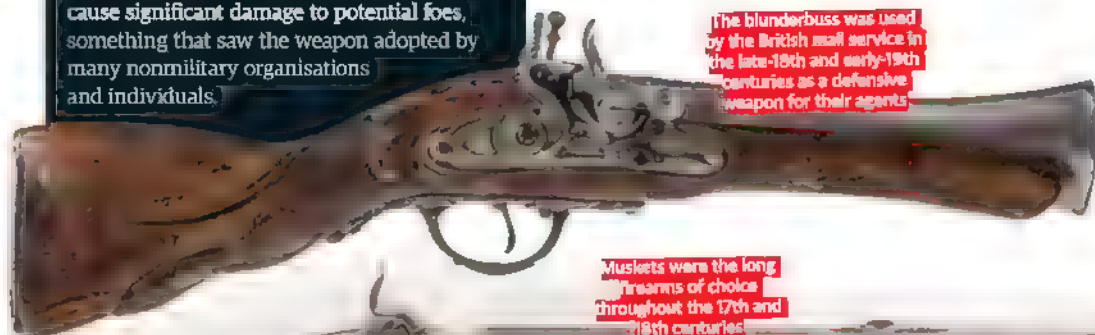
HAND CANNON 1390

Arguably the first true gun, the hand cannon took the concept of the fire lance and made it even deadlier. This was achieved by replacing the bamboo tube with an iron replica, affixing a stabilising handle and wooden stock to it, improving its ignition system and arming it with a selection of new, deadly ammunition. Thanks to its iron firing tube, this cannon could fire rocks, spears, cannon balls and even small iron arrows. The hand cannon could be operated by just one man, with the firearm ignited easily through a drilled touchhole.

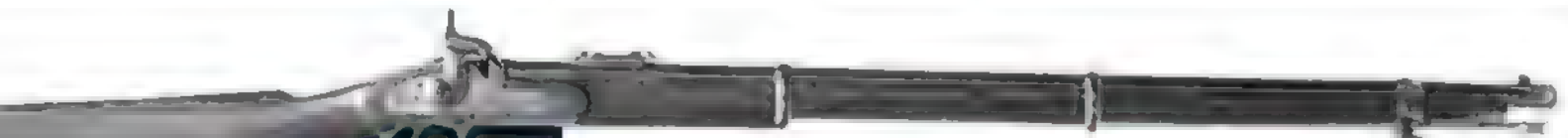
BLUNDERBUSS 1690

The precursor to the modern shotgun, the blunderbuss was a long firearm with an especially large-calibre barrel that flared at the muzzle end. The weapon specialised in close-range damage, propelling a bunch of lead balls at high-velocity outward from its muzzle and spread the balls out in a wide arc. The result of this was that even those untrained in marksmanship could cause significant damage to potential foes, something that saw the weapon adopted by many nonmilitary organisations and individuals.

The blunderbuss was used by the British mail service in the late-18th and early-19th centuries as a defensive weapon for their agents



Muskets were the long firearms of choice throughout the 17th and 18th centuries



The Whitworth Rifle was very light for the time, weighing in at only 4kg (9lb)

Sniper rifles have evolved very quickly over the last 150 years

RIFLE 1800

A revolutionary weapon that introduced innovations such as a rifled bore and breech loading to the field of long firearms, the rifle is arguably one of the deadliest weapons ever created. The first rifle adopted by the British Army was the Pattern 1800 Infantry Rifle, also known as the 'Baker rifle', which was used during the Napoleonic Wars. This early rifle could not be fired as quickly as the preexisting musket, but it did offer accuracy advantages if placed in the hands of a skilled marksman and had excellent medium-range stopping power.

SNIPER RIFLE 1857

The world's first sniper rifle is considered to be the Whitworth Rifle, a single-shot, muzzle-loaded weapon created by British engineer Sir Joseph Whitworth. When tested by the British government, the Whitworth Rifle literally blew its nearest competitor - the existing Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle - away in range and accuracy. While the Enfield could only hit a target at ranges up to 1,280 metres (4,200 feet), the Whitworth was capable of reliably hitting a target at up to 1,830 metres (6,000 feet) - a dramatic increase.



Joseph Whitworth

"Against unarmoured opponents, the arquebus was deadly, but a steel plate could stop the low-velocity rounds"

REPEATER 1860

The repeating rifle became a mainstay of late-19th-century combat due to its rapid rate of fire. The most famous of these rifles were the Winchester-brand lever action rifles, which held multiple rounds in a tubular magazine below the gun barrel. When the weapon's underlever was pushed down, a spring in the magazine pushed a new round into a firing position, and then when the lever was drawn back up, the round was chambered and the breech closed. The trigger could then be pulled for deadly results.



The Maxim gun was used by British forces in the Battle of the Shanghai

MACHINE GUN 1884

While Richard Gatling's 1862 Gatling gun was technically the first machine gun, it wasn't until Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim invented his Maxim gun that the weapon truly became a portable killer. The world's first recoil-actuated machine gun, the Maxim changed the dynamics of war, with the firearm capable of dealing out 500 rounds per minute with a muzzle velocity of 2,678 kilometres (1,664 miles) per hour. Upon its arrival, not even the repeating rifles could compete, and soon the weapon became synonymous with Britain's colonial warfare at the turn of the 20th century.



The repeating rifle became synonymous for its use in the American Wild West



Bertram Tyler Henry
1821-1880 AMERICAN
Henry became famous for the work he undertook at the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company, which had Oliver Winchester as a director. Henry's most famous invention was the Henry rifle, the world's first reliable lever-action repeater. The rifle's design was so revolutionary that Winchester

Automatic rifles such as the AK-47 machine gun are often associated with modern urban warfare

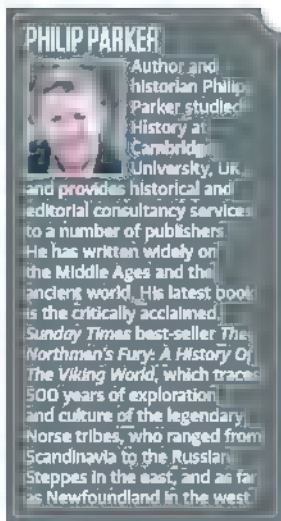
ASSAULT RIFLE 1930

The predominant long firearm of the modern day, the assault rifle is used by millions of soldiers worldwide, with the weapon combining the high rate of fire of a machine gun with the accuracy and range of a rifle. The first assault rifle to be invented, however, was the German-made Sturmgewehr 44 (StG 44), which was heavily used throughout WWII. This assault rifle featured a gas-operated, tilting bolt action and boasted a rate of fire of 600 rounds per minute in full-auto mode. It could also be switched to semi-automatic and fire in bursts, a feature that allowed it to accurately hit targets up to 600 metres (1,970 feet) away.

What if... The Vikings had colonised North America?

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1000 CE

Written by Ben Biggs



What if the Vikings had colonised North America?

If the Viking colony in North America had survived and prospered, it's hard to believe it could have been kept a complete secret for several centuries. Columbus's expedition of 1492 made landfall much further south, in the Caribbean, but those sent out by the English and French in the late-15th and early-16th century - such as that of John Cabot in 1497 - went further north. In the early stages of European colonisation, the French and English largely settled in different areas, but later on, North America saw clashes between them, which aggravated the rivalry between the two countries. It is quite possible a similar situation might occur regarding thriving Scandinavian colonies; eventually competition with other European settlements would have grown intense, which might have led to war.

Is there any reason to think Viking camps could not have thrived in the New World?

The Viking Sagas tell us that the Norsemen made landfall in North America in regions populated by Native Americans (whom they called *skraelings*). The large numbers of natives compared to the relatively small numbers of Vikings caused them to withdraw. However, the one undoubted Viking settlement we do know about, at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, was occupied at a time when there is no archaeological trace of Native American settlement in the vicinity. A large number of Vikings might potentially, therefore, have been able to establish camps and farms that prospered in areas where the Native American population was sparse.

To do so, they would have required a larger influx of population than the small Viking settlement on Greenland (of no more than 4,000-5,000 people) could provide, but if word

had spread back further east to Iceland and Scandinavia itself about a land offering rich new possibilities for settlement, it might have been possible to attract a suitable number of migrants [to settle and flourish].

There is some evidence of Viking contact - peaceful and otherwise - with the indigenous peoples. If Leifur Eiriksson had stuck around and the settlement of Vinland had grown, how do you think their relationship would have evolved?

In many regions where the Vikings raided and settled, they were faced with more or less organised states (such as Alba in Scotland and Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex in England), which already had urban communities and some kind of appointed royal officials. This enabled them to take over existing administrative structures and to rule over wide areas. In North America this would not have been the case, but a situation like that in Russia and Ukraine - where the Vikings established urban trading settlements that collected tribute from surrounding Slav tribes - might have developed.

What effect would the Norse have had on their culture?

In Russia, the Scandinavian and Slav cultures ultimately merged to create the medieval Russian principalities. In North America, the cultural differences between Native Americans and Vikings would probably have been too deep to allow this to happen easily. The Vikings remained at a distance from non-Norse peoples, such as Inuit in Greenland and from the Saami or Lapps in northern Scandinavia, so they would probably have done the same in North America. Once the Vikings became Christian, this might have had an impact on Native American culture, with some groups accepting the new

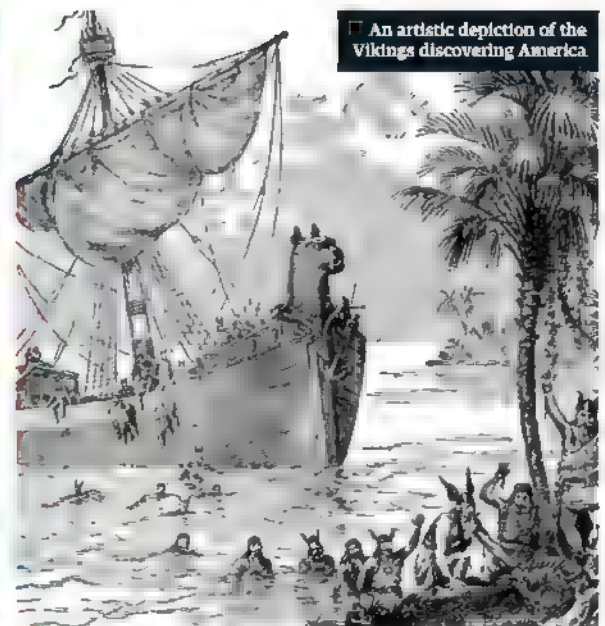
THE VIKINGS HAD COLONISED NORTH AMERICA?

“There might have been a kind of ‘United States’, but a Norwegian or Swedish-speaking one”

The Vikings may well have ultimately integrated with Native Americans had they stayed in America

What if...

THE VIKINGS HAD COLONISED NORTH AMERICA?



"If word had spread back to Iceland and Scandinavia, it might have been possible to attract a suitable number of migrants"

religion. As in many situations where groups face threatening outsiders, there might have been a consolidation of tribal groups into larger confederacies - as happened during the 17th and 18th centuries after the European colonisation of the eastern seaboard.

How would a separate colony in the New World have affected Old World Norse culture?

The Vikings were a fairly conservative lot culturally. In Greenland, they continued to try to farm much as they had done in Scandinavia, even though the climate and land was less suitable. In North America, they might have learnt some

new agricultural techniques from the Native Americans, such as the cultivation of maize. If the colony had thrived and grown in number, this would have changed the political balance with Scandinavia, allowing the other North Atlantic colonies, such as Iceland and Greenland, to grow further and become more independent. Both of those lacked wood for building houses and ships, and North America would have been able to provide them in abundance.

How do you think the introduction and regular trade of certain goods, crops, wood, animal pelts and so on, have changed the Old World economy?

The quantities of any given trade good that could be traded across the Atlantic could never have been particularly great, and not enough to make a significant difference to the Old World economy. Some pelts might have acquired 'exotic' status and become prized trade items among the rich. If the Vikings had somehow spread far enough to come into contact with

How would it be different?

Land of ice

The discovery of the Shetland Islands and the Faroe Islands encourage the Vikings to sail further northwest, where they come across Iceland. Scandinavian culture endures and thrives there today.

870



Real timeline

Leaving Scandinavia

Some time around the late-8th and early-9th centuries, the Vikings begin to explore beyond Scandinavia. Initial discoveries include Great Britain.

800

Leifur Eiriksson is born

By the time the Norse explorer Leifur Eiriksson is born in Iceland, the Vikings have already established a colony in Greenland. The names are a misnomer designed to compel would-be settlers from Scandinavia to search further afield - Iceland is warmer and has more resources than Greenland.

970

Leifur leaves

At the age of 17, Leifur is banished from Iceland just like his father, who had been banished along with his family from Norway for manslaughter. Leifur heads west to settle the first permanent colony in Greenland.

986

To the motherland

Leifur sails back for Norway where he converts to Christianity. Some think it is here he hears the story of a merchant, Bjarni Herjolfsson, who had seen land to the west of Greenland.

999



Real timeline

Alternate timeline

What if... THE VIKINGS HAD COLONISED NORTH AMERICA?

the civilisations of Mesoamerica, this might have changed as some items - the potato in particular - ultimately made a huge impact on the nutritional intake of the poor in Europe.

Was the Norse discovery of the New World inevitable? Would other Norsemen have made it to the New World if it wasn't for Leifur?

The discovery by Leifur Eiriksson - or Bjarni Herjólfsson, who is credited with it in some sources - seems to have been an accident, but the chances of being blown off course from Greenland, where there was an established Viking settlement, to the North American coast around Newfoundland or Labrador is actually fairly high, and in the 450-year life span of the Greenland colony this is likely to have occurred sooner or later.

What was the legacy of Leifur's journey and the Vinland colony? If the Norsemen had stayed, could you say what impact that would have had on American culture in the far future, say around the time of US independence? Perhaps the USA wouldn't even exist?

The United States came into being because a growing and increasingly prosperous colonial population sought more say in the way they were governed. The physical distance between them and the European mother countries made this practical to achieve. The distance between Iceland and Norway enabled the Viking colony there to remain independent from Scandinavia for over two centuries, and the much greater travel time to North America could well have fostered a similarly independent colony.

The fierce individuality of the Icelandic Vikings, who dispensed with the rule of kings and established the world's first parliamentary assembly, might even have been mirrored in North America, where the colonists could have been just as antipathetic to royal rule as the American Revolutionaries in the 1770s. Who knows, there might have been a kind of 'United States', but a Norwegian or Swedish-speaking one.

By populating America 500 years earlier, do you think we would be seeing a much more populous American country today?

Leifur Eiriksson first ended up in America by accident, after having been blown off course.



The population growth of medieval Europe was comparatively slow before the Industrial Revolution, and suffered huge periodic set-backs such as the Black Death in the 14th century, which killed around a third of the continent's people. When you add this to the impact of the actual European settlement in the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries, when a large proportion of the Native American population fell victim to diseases (such as influenza) against which they had no natural immunity, then a Viking colony in America that survived would probably not have led to a population of North America that was greatly different to the level we see today.

Have your say

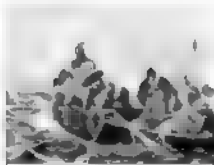
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False interview

On his way back to Greenland, Leifur and his crew are blown off course and discover the new land to the west. He returns to Greenland to mount an expedition. **999**



Columbus's voyage

Nearly 500 years pass before the known voyage to the New World, when Christopher Columbus makes his first landfall far to the south of Vinland, in the Bahamas. **1492**



American revolution

The Declaration of Independence is signed by the second continental congress in July 1776 and in the same year, it forces the British out of Boston. By 1783, the United States have fully separated from Great Britain. **1776**

Exploring the new world

Amplified and with a crew of 35, Leifur returns to Newfoundland, where he discovers and names several new places. They find fertile land with wheat fields and grape vines, which Leifur calls Vinland. The party eventually returns home to Greenland. **1001**



British dominance

By the mid-18th century, the British have laid claim to most of Canada and eastern parts of what is now the United States, but that is to change with one significant event. **1750**

Canadian independence

Canada's road to independence is longer and more diplomatic than the USA's: the three colonies gain autonomy in 1867 and less than a century later, Britain grants them full independence. **1931**

Vinland settled

Pleased with the new, fertile and bountiful land he has discovered, Leifur Eiriksson brings his winter camp down to the new land to establish a permanent colony. **1001**

Viking missionaries

The Newfoundland colonies have grown and prospered, but the indigenous peoples and the Vikings have given each other a wide berth until now. Christian missionaries move among the tribes, spreading their new faith. **1200**

Tribal outrage

The threat to native culture from these Norse settlers is becoming more apparent, so some of the 'skraelings' consolidate to protect themselves and their way of life. **1400**

Complicated states

By the time the British have entrenched themselves in the New World, the Norse settlers have already staked their claim on large swathes of the land. War is brewing in America. **1750**

Colonial war

The Norse colonists refuse to relinquish their grasp on their long-held territory. The British are too arrogant and powerful to recognise the independence of the Norwegians. A bitter territorial war ensues. **1800**



The British

English King George III's ships included Nelson's flagship, the Vanguard, plus 14 others, each armed with 74 guns except the Leander, which had 50 guns.

L'Orient's survivors

Of the ill-fated L'Orient's 1,010-strong crew, just 70 survived, only to be taken prisoner by the British. The explosion was so powerful it could be heard 24km (15mi) away in Alexandria, and it took some time before the last of the ship's debris finished raining down on the battlefield.



GREATEST
BATTLES

BATTLE OF THE NILE

**ABOUKIR BAY, EGYPT 1-3
AUGUST 1798**

By the start of 1798, the French Revolutionary Army had been waging war against several European monarchies for six years, and Britain had been in near-perpetual conflict with the upstart French Republic for five of those. Napoleon had successfully taken control of or made alliances with the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium and Spain among other countries, and Britain was the only power left to fight France,

however, didn't have Britain's formidable navy, and because many of its ranking naval officers had been executed as a result of the revolution, neither had the same breadth of experience.

So Napoleon looked for victories elsewhere to strengthen his growing republic: in Egypt. Perhaps a foothold there would allow him to threaten British power in India? His motives for his Egyptian campaign aren't entirely clear, but it took a canny and swiftly executed move by Napoleon's opposite, Admiral Horatio Nelson, to stop the French advance dead in its tracks and turn the tide of the war.

Nelson's first task was to find the French fleet, and he spent several months on what appeared to be a wild goose chase across the Mediterranean. The

The French

Napoleon's fleet in Aboukir had a marginal advantage on paper: 13 ships of the line and four frigates, including the heavily armed *L'Orient*. This was far and away the battle's most powerful vessel, with 120 guns.

The pivotal moment

At 10pm the ailing French flagship *L'Orient* finally succumbed to the blaze that had been consuming it for the last hour. It exploded as the flames reached its gunpowder-laden magazine, taking the French admiral with it, and the battle was effectively decided in this moment.

tide of history could have been turned at several points, as French and British fleets were thought to have passed each other, literally like ships in the night. Eventually, a second visit to Alexandria came up trumps for Nelson. The port was rammed with 200 French transport vessels leaving no room for Napoleon's warships, which had taken harbour in nearby Aboukir Bay. Their formation meant the rearguard was unable to support the van at the front, so the defensive lines could be easily penetrated by the British with the wind at their back.

Considerable time spent at sea with his captains and in deep tactical discussion now played to Nelson's significant advantage. The British fleet acted as smooth and contiguous an attack unit as

the French were unprepared and disparate. The leading British ships moved down both seaward and landward sides of the French fleet, picking off its first two vessels, the *Guerner* and *Seneuse*, with ease. Nelson's flagship fared less well, taking heavy casualties in its forward batteries, with Nelson himself sustaining injuries.

The 74-gun *Bellerophon* dared to take on the 120-gun *L'Orient*, but was decimated by the French flagship and left to drift with its mast in pieces, its officers all dead or wounded. However, French casualties eclipsed the British. Having sunk or disabled the main of the forward and middle French fleet, the turning point came with the destruction of *L'Orient* in an epic explosion, having been

raked with cannon fire by the *Alexander* and the *Swiftsure*, *L'Orient*'s gunpowder magazine went up in flame at around 10pm and erupted in an explosion that rocked the entire battlefield and for miles around. Incredibly, the ship's 15-ton rudder was thrown over a kilometre away by the blast.

The following few hours amounted to a clean-up operation for the British, with the remaining French ships in the rear surrendering in the wake of *L'Orient*'s destruction or fleeing the battle. Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile was resounding. The British suffered 895 casualties, compared to the 5,225 dead and 3,105 captured French: it marked the end of Napoleon's hold on Egypt and any threat to British reign in India.



First French Republic

CREW 9,710

SHIPS 17

CANNONS 1,196



FRANCOISE PAUL BRUEYS

LEADER

As an officer from an aristocratic family, Brueys was lucky enough to avoid execution during the French Revolution, living long enough to go down with his own ship.

Strength A skilled and experienced commander willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Weakness A lack of foresight and preparation that ultimately led to his demise.



L'ORIENT

KEY UNIT

Brueys's first-class flagship was the dominant power at the Battle of the Nile.

Strength Its 120 cannons gave it a broadside that was over a third more powerful than the biggest British warship.

Weakness Loaded with flammable turpentine and fresh paint, it was only a matter of time before L'Orient went up in flames.



36-POUNDER LONG GUN

KEY WEAPON

The largest cannon mounted on French warships, the L'Orient was laden with 32 of those among its 120 guns.

Strength Immense damaging power, for naval ships and coastal defence alike.

Weakness It was very heavy and required 14 men to operate.

01 Poor preparation

The French have placed their ships in a line parallel to the shore with ropes between them, to prevent an enemy from breaking the line. Many of the sailors who would have otherwise been aboard the ships have disembarked to scout for water and provisions. The crew and soldiers of Napoleon's fleet are hardly ship-shape after some time at sea, but Admiral Paul Brueys has no reason to fear an imminent attack.

02 Penetrating French defence

Night falls and Nelson signals a risky attack on the French fleet, given the low visibility. Samuel Hood is the British captain aboard the *Zealous* charged with leading, but it is Captain Foley aboard the *Goliath* who spotted a chunk in the enemy's armour. He takes an opportune moment to move inside the enemy line between Napoleon's ships and the shore, with a view to firing at the French from a side they will not be prepared for.

03 Out of action

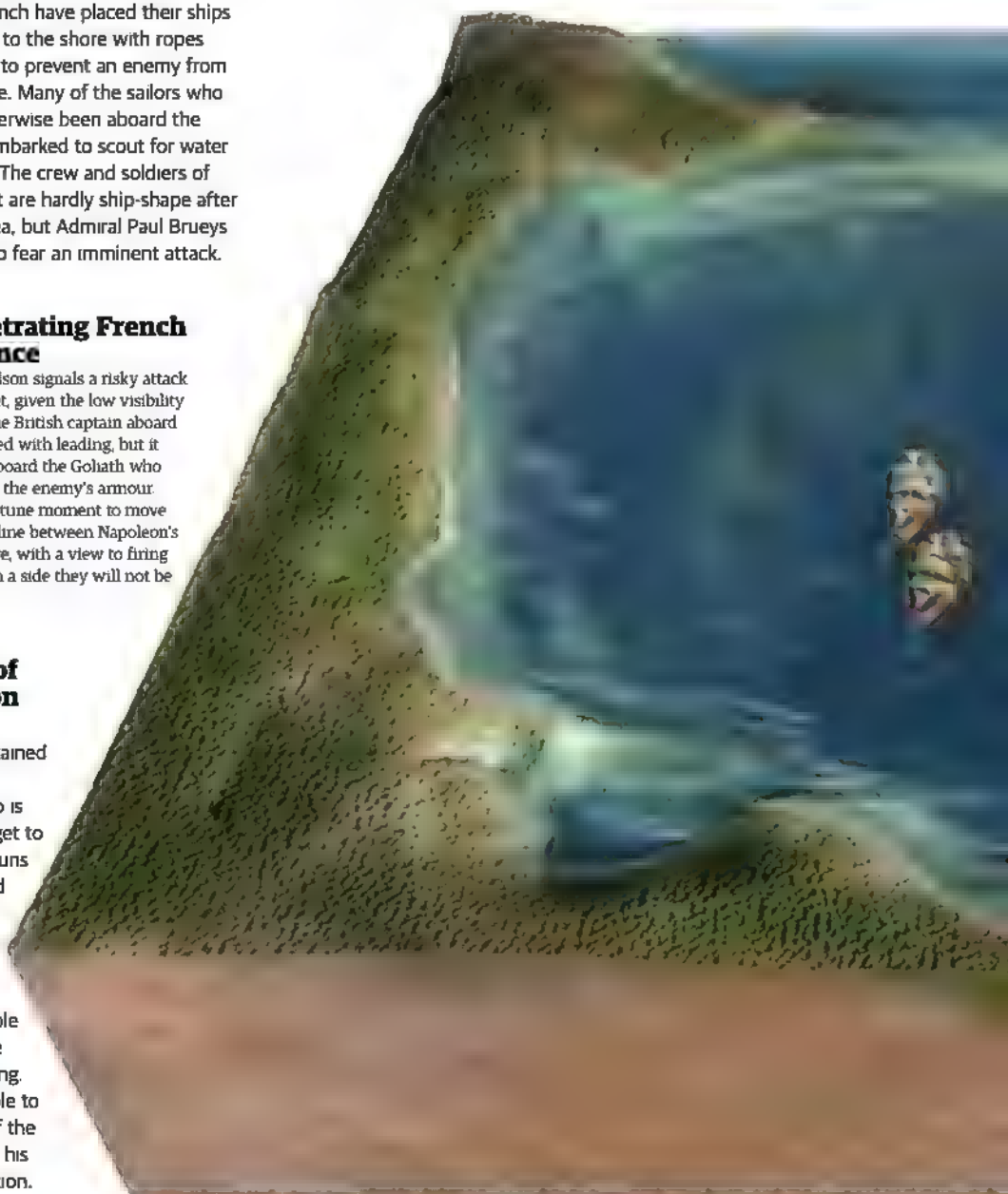
The British ship *Culloden* is captured by Thomas Troubridge, who is overly keen to get to the action. He runs his ship aground off the shoal of Aboukir Island and despite the best efforts of his men, is unable to shift until the following morning. He is at least able to warn the rest of the fleet away from his precarious position.

04 Battle stations

The *Zealous*, *Orion*, *Theseus* and *Audacious* follow the *Goliath* into the new position, while Admiral Nelson, aboard the *Vanguard*, moves to take up positions along the outside of the line followed by most of the rest of his fleet. His ships hoist their lights as darkness falls and the battle begins in earnest.

05 British casualties

The two ships at the end of the seaward line of the British fleet fare the worst: the *Bellerophon* finds itself up against L'Orient, which has nearly twice the power of its third-rate British opponent. The *Bellerophon*'s masts are blasted into oblivion by a volley of French cannon fire. Meanwhile, the *Majestic* runs its jib boom (the long beam at the front of the ship) into the rigging of L'Heureux and while it's stuck, it suffers heavy casualties, including Captain Westcott.





10 French surrender

Shaken by the loss of its most powerful vessel, the resolve of the French fleet begins to falter. Just before midnight, the Franklin strikes its colours. All but six French ships have surrendered at this point. By 3am firing has ceased and with the dawn light, those that haven't fled have been captured. Nelson is victorious.

09 Down with his ship

Admiral Francois Brueys refuses to abandon his flagship, even after being critically wounded in his head and his arm.

He remains on the quarterdeck and perishes in L'Orient's spectacular explosion.

06 Nelson's 'fatal' wound

Nelson is hit in the head by a piece of langrigde (scrap, shot from a cannon that's used to destroy sails). He fears the end but although the cut to his brow is grisly, it's not mortal, and Nelson is patched up by his surgeon.

07 Deadly crossfire

Nearly two hours into the battle, the British ships Alexander and Swiftsure finally join the fray, taking up positions either side of L'Orient. Alexander goes aft, Swiftsure moves to the French flagship's bow, and together their crossfire seals its doom as flames start to spread across L'Orient's poop deck. As it takes hold, Nelson returns to the deck of his own flagship.

08 L'Orient explodes

The fire aboard L'Orient moves to midships and finds a flammable store of paint and turpentine. By this point, the flagship's fate is obvious to both sides. Both French and British anchor cables to L'Orient are cut and the ailing vessel is given a respectful distance. The blaze inevitably reaches the gunpowder in the ship's magazine and an almighty explosion marks a pivotal moment. L'Orient is no more.



Great Britain

CREW 8,169

SHIPS 14

CANNONS 1,012



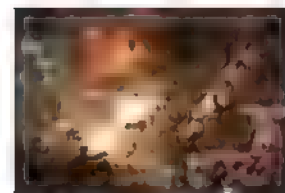
HORATIO NELSON

LEADER

History paints a pretty picture of the victor, but there's no denying Napoleon's foil would have had to be canny and courageous.

Strength A naval genius, his keen mind for tactics was matched only by his bravery.

Weakness His dear mistress, Emma Hamilton.



THE VANGUARD

KEY UNIT

Nelson's flagship was a 'third-rate' ship of the line that made the best compromise between speed, handling, power and cost.

Strength A very nimble and powerful warship.

Weakness No match for L'Orient in a direct battle.



32-POUNDER LONG GUN

KEY WEAPON

The Royal Navy's biggest cannon was a 32-pounder long gun, or so-called 'demi-cannon.' The Vanguard sported 28 of those.

Strength Lighter and required fewer men to operate than the 36.

Weakness With a shorter range than its French counterpart, it was also notoriously inaccurate.



What was it like? PARIS, 1940

Nazi leader Adolf Hitler
during his only visit to
Paris in June 1940



A cultural powerhouse for centuries, Paris suddenly became a part of Hitler's expanding empire, with its population forced to choose between collaboration and resistance



Finance

France was hit hard by the Wall Street Crash of 1929. By 1940, Prime Minister Paul Reynaud was pushing through a programme aimed at reviving manufacturing, but didn't have long before the Nazi occupation. After taking power, Nazi Reichsmarks were issued, but the French franc was still legal tender in the city and much of occupied France.

The 'city of light' had avoided occupation by German forces during World War I, but following a successful two-pronged invasion of France, beginning on 10 May 1940, Nazi forces arrived in an undefended city on 14 June. The 1920s had been known as 'les Années folles', an era when Paris had revelled in its traditional role as a beacon for artists and intellectuals. Paris had also offered refuge for those fleeing persecution, including many Central-European Jews: at the onset of the invasion, around

175,000 Jews resided in Paris, mostly in the 4th, 11th, 18th and 20th districts, including around 64,000 foreign Jews.

Hitler made just one visit to Paris, on 28 June 1940, and "showed no special interest in some of the most beautiful architectural works in Paris; the Place des Vosges, the Louvre, the Palace of Justice and Sainte Chapelle".

Paris was popular with many other Germans. The occupation-era *Guide Aryien* recommended a visit to the Moulin Rouge cabaret and its shows

continued for the occupying troops. Compared to many other Nazi-occupied capitals, Paris sustained little structural damage, but the new masters were a constant sight on the boulevards. In September 1940, a census registered the Parisian Jewish population and seven of the city's synagogues were bombed by the Nazis the following month; systematic transportations of Jews to transit camps began two years later. The Nazi occupation cast a shadow over the city of light, especially for those the Germans considered to be undesirable.

was it like?

PARIS, 1940

NOS REVELATIONS
L'action inconnue du F. CHAUTEMPS
Sulisme prince du Royal Secret
Le Maroc



DANS L'EGOUT DU PASSE,
STAVISKY RIV. FORMULI



Media

The Nazis kept a close eye on what the people of Paris read. Some newspapers such as *Le Journal* ceased their operations in the city after the fall. Others continued and took a collaborationist stance. *Paris Soir* was subject to German control and *Le Temps* took a pro-Vichy line. After liberation, the latter was closed down at the behest of Charles De Gaulle and replaced by *Le Monde*.



Industry

The Renault automobile company produced new six and eight-cylinder models in the late-1930s, although production was hampered by strikes that affected many sectors of the economy. After the occupation, all free trade unions were replaced by state unions loyal to the Nazis. The occupation led to the industry being adapted to the needs of the war effort.



Art

Paris was associated with numerous new artistic movements, such as cubism, surrealism and dadaism, represented by painters such as Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque and Marcel Duchamp. Some artists fled the city due to the occupation, such as the Jewish painter Marc Chagall, who had little choice but to escape.



Government

Prime Minister Paul Reynaud was in power just a few weeks before the Germans invaded the country. The last-ever cabinet meeting of the Third Republic took place in Paris on 9 June. After the Germans occupied the northern three-fifths of France, the French seat of government moved to the spa town of Vichy.



ABOVE Paul Reynaud, the last prime minister of the French Third Republic



Military

As the Germans crossed the Somme north of Paris on 8 June 1940, generals at French military headquarters at the Château de Vincennes on the western edge of Paris debated whether to sue for peace or fight for the city. German Army Group B attacked through the Ardennes, wrongly considered impenetrable, with 1,500 tanks and over 1 million men.

German troops march down the Champs Elysée after invading Paris

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1492
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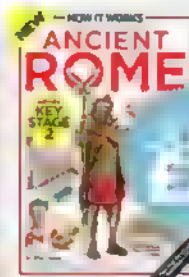
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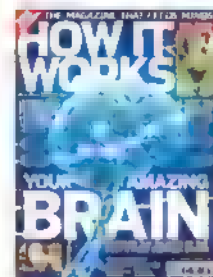
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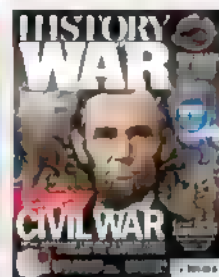
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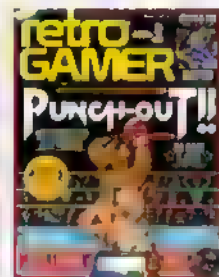
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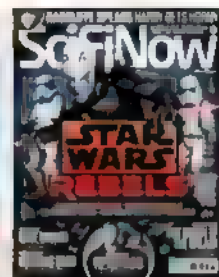
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CROMWELL'S BATTLE AGAINST THE MONARCHY

KING KILLER

How a struggling farmer destroyed the most powerful man in England

Written by Frances White

The king was furious. His anger was so great that it clouded his vision and drove his marching feet forwards through Parliament. The swords of his soldiers clanked noisily as they followed him, but as they approached the doors of the House of Commons, he ordered them to wait outside. He had business to attend to.

The rows of men inside slowly rose as he entered, watching silently as the man who believed God himself had put him on the throne strode towards the speaker's chair, sat down and lounged back, his arms upon the rests. A murmured ripple passed over the crowd - this was an unprecedented move, as the monarch's place was in the House of Lords. No king before had ever dared to break such a basic rule of Parliament, but Charles looked over the shocked MPs with a ghost of a smirk tugging at his lips. Finally he broke the stunned silence with a bark "Speaker! I request the presence of these men - John Pym, John Hampden, Denzil Holles, Sir Arthur Heslridge and William Strode! I have men outside ready to arrest them. Tell me where they are."

The man he addressed had lowered to his knees, his neck bent humbly, but his words were spoken with strength as he addressed his king: "I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as this House is pleased to direct me." Charles's jaw stiffened at his words. They weren't there. His spies had failed him. They were probably hiding in some godforsaken corner of London. As he slowly

"Little did Charles know that when he recalled Parliament it would include the most powerful foe he would ever face"

rose to his feet what began as a whispered word rose louder and louder among the gathered men. "Privilege! Privilege!" They yelled from the benches as the king turned sharply and marched to the door. "Privilege!" they cried as he stormed from the room and slammed the doors shut behind him.

Since the day he entered the world his father, James I, had told Charles he had a divine right to

rule. Kings were 'little gods on Earth, as his father put it. James had ruled with the same self-righteous kingliness, but had been spared rebellion due to his peace-loving tendencies. Charles, though, was a raging fire where his father was crackling embers. Not only had he dared to marry a Catholic in a time when Catholic plots were the greatest fear of the largely Protestant British population, but he

had also followed the advice of unpopular ministers and suffered defeats in both Scotland and Ireland. Parliament were furious, so he responded by dissolving it and avoiding calling it for a decade in a period known as his 'personal rule.'

The king tried to impose taxes to replace the funds Parliament brought in, but the people simply refused to pay. The final nail in his coffin was hammered when he tried to force a new

prayer book in deeply Protestant Scotland. The resulting rebellion was so costly that Charles had no option but to remove the lock on the doors of Parliament and recall them after a gap of 11 years. Upon being recalled Parliament weren't slow to vent their displeasure, as trust between the two most powerful institutions of the country had been eroded. When a rebellion ignited in Ireland,

Parliament refused to grant the king with the army they believed he would undoubtedly one day use against them, and so raised their own force. Akin to treason, this led to him storming into Parliament to arrest the ringleaders. His failure sealed Britain's fate, as Charles raised his flag at Nottingham on 22 August 1642, the country was officially at war.

"With a fiery temper and outspoken tendencies the headstrong Puritan was ill-suited to the subtleties of Parliament"

and disorganised, Cromwell's men were disciplined and deadly, attacking as one powerful force in a brutal and bloody assault. The Northern army was crushed and 'Cromwell' was the name on everyone's lips. To the Parliamentarians he was a hero, to the royalists a devil in disguise. But just who exactly was he?

At first sight he seemed unremarkable, a rather tall

man with untidy hair, a large nose and a firm mouth who dressed in suits made from cheap cloth. His modest inherited fortune had placed him on the bottom rung of the gentry and in his early thirties he was forced to sell everything and rent a farm in St Ives. With barely enough money to support his wife, children, six sisters and widowed mother, he suffered from a deep crisis, which he only managed to climb out of due to a spiritual awakening, where he was made to believe that his suffering was a gift from God who had great plans for him. Cromwell emerged from this religious awakening as a Puritan, and his strong belief in God's grand plans for him were strengthened when he inherited land from an uncle and managed to claw his way back up the social ladder.

With a fiery temper and outspoken tendencies, the headstrong puritan was ill-suited to the subtleties of Parliament. It was on the battlefield where he proved himself again and again, rising from captain to colonel with his mighty Ironsides decimating the enemy lines. In a relatively short space of time the struggling farmer had become the surprise poster boy of Parliament's side of the Civil War.

The two sides had fought for two years without either one gaining a significant advantage until on 2 July 1644, when the two armies met in a wild meadow in York known as Marston Moor. For two hours the battle waged as every encounter before had, with neither side gaining advantage when suddenly Cromwell's forces unleashed a devastating assault. Known as Ironsides, his elite riders were like no other the country had seen before, hand-picked by merit and trained by Cromwell himself. Cromwell thundered across the field with the ferocity of an uncaged lion. His riders smashed into the royalist right flank and decimated it in moments. The plain-clothed, long-haired colonel seemed unstoppable, even when he was wounded in the neck he returned to the battle immediately. While the enemy forces were tired

and disorganised, Cromwell's men were disciplined and deadly, attacking as one powerful force in a brutal and bloody assault. The Northern army was crushed and 'Cromwell' was the name on everyone's lips. To the Parliamentarians he was a hero, to the royalists a devil in disguise. But just who exactly was he?



Cromwell's New Model Army originally consisted of 60 of his farming neighbours





Lords John and Bernard Stewart both fought for King Charles in the Civil War



Oliver Cromwell

Cromwell's father was the youngest son of one of the wealthiest landowners in the country and so he inherited only a small amount of land. Cromwell languished in the bottom rung of the gentry, not rich enough to be classed elite, but with enough money to maintain his status.

Cromwell was raised Protestant in his youth but his Puritan tendencies emerged after a period of depression in which he experienced a religious conversion. He believed in freedom of religion, with religious groups able to practise their beliefs as they saw fit – as long as they were Protestant.

Cromwell was at his strongest on the battlefield commanding an army of men. This was mainly down to his strict discipline and calm under pressure. Because he was able to keep his head, his soldiers did not panic and he did not suffer a single defeat in his military career.

Cromwell had a fiery temper that got him into trouble several times. When he got into a fight with the gentry of Huntingdon he had to make a public apology, causing himself much disgrace. This sort of rashness was ill-suited to the subtle complexities of Parliament.

"That sloven, [...] if we have a breach with the king, will be one of the greatest men of England." *John Hampden*

"The English monster [...] for five years space, he wallowed in the blood of many gallant and heroick persons." *Gerard Winstanley*

Cromwell has gone down as one of the most controversial figures in British history. Some consider him a regicidal dictator, while others regard him as a revolutionary hero. He was once rated the tenth-greatest Briton of all time in a BBC poll.

Cromwell Vs King



King Charles I

The second son of King James I, Charles was a sickly child and may have suffered from rickets. He was so weak that it was thought he couldn't survive the journey to England and remained in Scotland in his early years, he also suffered from slow speech and a stammer throughout his life.

Charles was deeply religious, but his views opposed those of many of his subjects. He believed church services should be grand and full of ritual. For his Protestant public this was too Catholic. His controversial religious policies would play a large part in his downfall.

His commitment to his wife and children was something even Cromwell admired. He had no known mistresses or illegitimate children so avoided the scandals that surrounded many other monarchs. He was also a capable commander with a will of steel and led the Oxford army throughout the war.

Charles was unable to understand the opposing views of Parliament and because of this he was unable to negotiate with them, leading to lack of trust on both sides. He was also stubborn, unwilling to compromise or take a wiser course of action if it conflicted with his beliefs.

"A mild and gracious prince who knew not how to be, or how to be made, great." *Archbishop William Laud*

"Tyrant, traitor and murderer; and a public and implacable enemy to the Commonwealth of England." *John Bradshaw*

Conservatives regard Charles as a martyr, but the general view of the king is negative. He has been described by Professor Barry Coward as, "the most incompetent monarch of England since Henry VI." The common view of Charles I is that of a delusional, uncompromising monarch.

UPBRINGING

RELIGION

GREATEST STRENGTH

GREATEST WEAKNESS

WHAT HIS FRIENDS SAY

WHAT HIS ENEMIES SAY

LEGACY

Cromwell was the epitome of the strength of the common man, of God's righteous judgement of an unjust king, but he was surrounded by men who didn't possess the same fire in their bellies. The majority of Parliament were scared. They had grown up in a land where the king was unfathomable, indestructible. "If we fight 100 times and beat him 99 he will be king still", commented the Earl of Manchester. There was whispering in Parliament that the goal of the war should be to bring the monarch to the table to negotiate. But Cromwell, led by his belief that God guided his actions, wanted to smash Charles and his forces into dust and force

"The struggling farmer had become the surprise poster boy of the Parliament's side of the Civil War"

him to accept Parliament's terms. Military victory, Cromwell concluded, was the only way. So the hot-headed lieutenant general decided to do things his way and created Britain's first professional fighting force, the New Model Army. Trained like his mighty ironside, Parliament's new army would prove to be the most powerful bargaining chip they could hope to bring to the table.

Bulish and impulsive he may have been, but Cromwell understood a basic rule of successful revolution: that the power lay not with king, but with the army. It was with this army that he marched into Naseby Northamptonshire, as commander Cromwell's forces, like him, were unremarkable to look at, described by himself as "poor prayerful men". They were drab compared to the elaborate royalist forces mounted on their magnificent horses with their long flowing curls and lace-rimmed hats. But Cromwell was led by his all-consuming belief that he had been hand-picked by God to lead Parliament to victory, and with



1 A favourable position

The New Model Army's position is on a ridge, and Cromwell suspects no one would dare attack it, so Commander Sir Thomas Fairfax moves the army back to Naseby. The morning fog prevents the royalists from spotting the Parliamentarian forces before it is too late to withdraw.

2 The centre attacks

Led by Lord Astley, the royalists crash into the Parliamentary infantry. Their muskets can only be used briefly before the fighting descends into hand-to-hand combat, causing mass chaos. The superior skills of the royalist forces force the infantry back.

3 The prince charges

The royalist right flank led by Prince Rupert charges towards the Parliamentary left flank led by Cromwell's son-in-law General Ireton. Despite initially pushing back, awaiting pikemen drive them back and General Ireton is taken prisoner.

4 Left flank defeated

The second line of royalist cavalry charges towards the left flank. The dragoons fire upon the royalist forces, limiting the damage, but many of Parliament's soldiers break away and flee the field. The royalist forces gallop off in pursuit of the fleeing enemy.

5 Parliament bites back

As Rupert attacks Ireton, Cromwell and Langdale face each other, neither moving for half an hour. Finally the royalist cavalry charges towards Cromwell. Faced with riding up a slope littered with bushes and rabbit holes, the royalists are swiftly defeated by Cromwell's men.

6 Cromwell to the rescue

Cromwell turns his reserves against the royalist centre and Commander Fairfax leads his own regiments into the fray, surrounding and outnumbering the royalist forces from all sides. The royalists throw down their arms and Fairfax takes their standard.

7 Royalists return

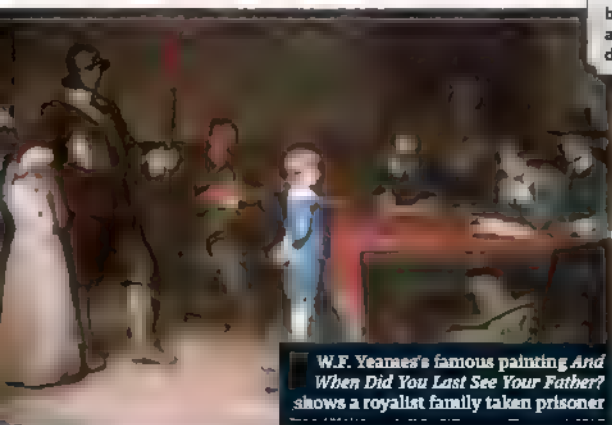
Rupert's forces ride to Naseby to attack a Parliamentarian camp. The camp guards refuse surrender so Rupert leads his forces back into the battlefield. However, his men refuse to fight. When they see Fairfax's newly organised lines advancing toward them they flee.

8 Parliament pursues the royalists

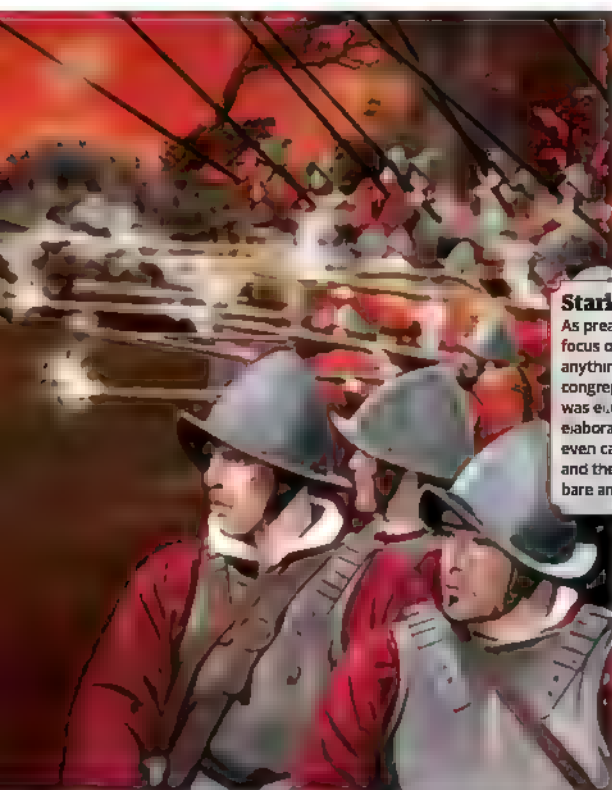
Fairfax's forces pursue the fleeing royalists, but when Prince Rupert's men make a wrong turn they are unable to escape. Parliamentarian forces butcher the trapped men and also kill about 100 female camp followers.

this feverish devotion he commanded his forces. Unleashing a devastating attack at the climax of the fighting, Cromwell shattered the Royalist military. The victory was so overwhelming that Charles could not hope to reform his forces. The king was defeated - Parliament had won.

On 7 June 1647 the two men at the centre of the war that had torn the country in two finally met. Cromwell sat opposite the king he had crushed and offered him a deal. He could keep the crown if he gave up his most unpopular reforms. Considering the absolute defeat of his forces, these were lenient terms, but Cromwell, for the first time in his life, had encountered a man as stubborn as he was. Charles refused, and in secret the cunning king made an alliance with the Scots and escaped to the Isle of Wight, but this was to be a brief respite; the resulting war was swiftly squashed by Parliament and Charles was captured again.



W.F. Yeames's famous painting *When Did You Last See Your Father?* shows a royalist family taken prisoner.



Stark decoration

As preaching was the primary focus of Puritan services, anything that distracted the congregation away from this was eliminated. This meant elaborate clothing, images and even candles were excluded and their churches remained bare and simple.

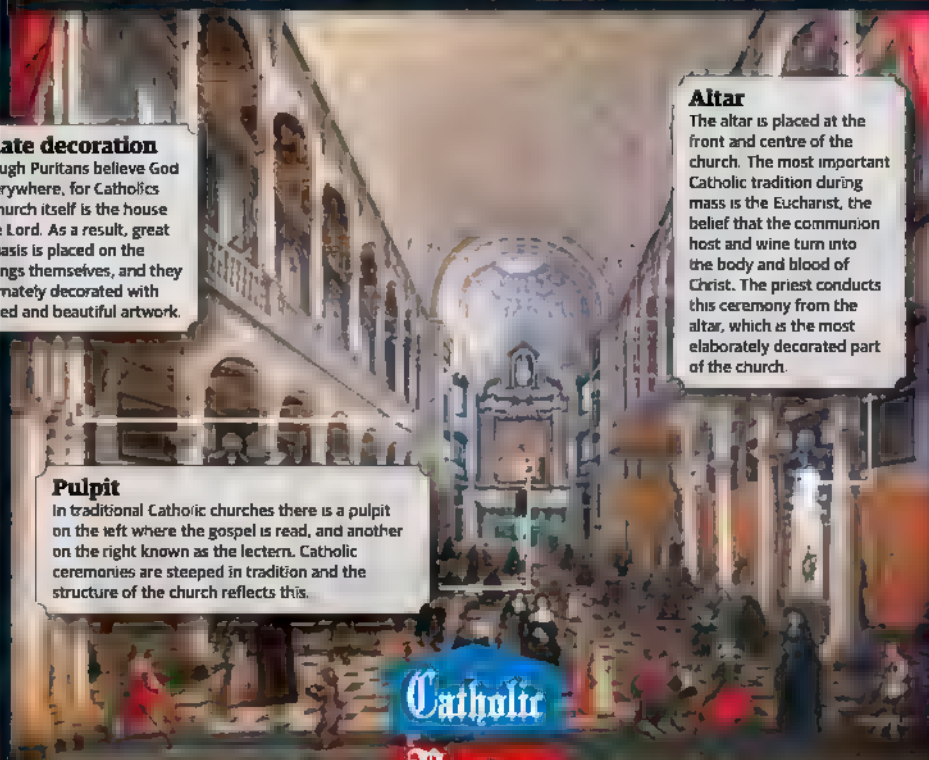
Ornate decoration

Although Puritans believe God is everywhere, for Catholics the church itself is the house of the Lord. As a result, great emphasis is placed on the buildings themselves, and they are ornately decorated with detailed and beautiful artwork.

One of the major points of contention that catapulted the country into civil war was the subject of religion. During the Protestant Reformation, many faith groups split away from the Roman Catholic Church and the

population of Britain was divided on the correct way to worship God. While Catholic ceremonies were concerned with grand traditions and their churches full of elaborate statues and artwork, the Protestant

and Puritan churches preferred a far more simple affair. Charles's marriage to a Catholic woman, as well as his support of adding more Catholic-like ceremony and tradition to Protestant services, was not well received.



Altar

The altar is placed at the front and centre of the church. The most important Catholic tradition during mass is the Eucharist, the belief that the communion host and wine turn into the body and blood of Christ. The priest conducts this ceremony from the altar, which is the most elaborately decorated part of the church.

Pulpit

In traditional Catholic churches there is a pulpit on the left where the gospel is read, and another on the right known as the lectern. Catholic ceremonies are steeped in tradition and the structure of the church reflects this.

Catholic
Puritan



No idols

For Puritans idol worship was a sin, because statues are made by men and have 'no authority from God', so treating a statue as divine was akin to worshiping an alternate God. As a result of this, Puritan churches had no statues or idols.

Pulpit

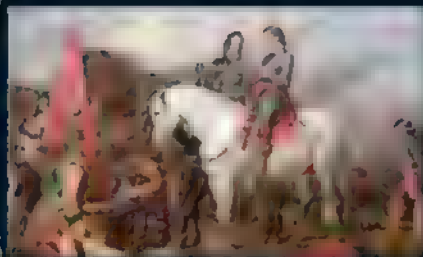
In a Puritan church preaching was the central focus. The pulpit would always be raised high so the preacher could be viewed and heard by all present. A Bible would sit in the centre of the pulpit as it held extreme authority in the church.

THREE REASONS THE ROUNDHEADS WON



The royalists' lack of finance

Although the royalist forces initially benefited from an influx of money from the English aristocracy, of which around 75 per cent supported Charles, throughout the war they suffered from funding difficulties. The areas the royalists controlled were the sparsely populated rural areas in the North, Wales, and the South West. By comparison Parliament had control over more wealthy populated areas and, most significantly, London. This allowed them to gather much needed funds more quickly than the taxation that royalist forces had to rely on, which could take a long time to implement.



New Model Army

Created by Oliver Cromwell himself, the New Model Army was Britain's first professional fighting force. Paid and equipped by Parliament, the officers were promoted based on merit rather than social standing and as a result the army became a powerful weapon. Rather than the royalist forces that had a tendency to run off in pursuit of booty in the midst of battle, the New Model Army was highly disciplined and posed a brutal, unflinching opposition to the royalist side.



Allies in the North

Faced with the threat of Irish Catholics joining with the royalists, Parliament signed the Solemn League and Covenant with Scotland under the agreement that the Scottish system of church government was implemented in England. This gave the roundheads an injection of fresh allies to the south and was disastrous for Charles as his forces were grossly outnumbered. When Charles surrendered to the Scottish force they swiftly handed him over to Parliament.



Charles Landseer's painting *The Eve Of The Battle Of Edge Hill, 1642*



Oliver Cromwell led the Parliamentarians to victory in the Civil War



In fleeing, Charles had proven he was unworthy of trust, he needed to die, and Cromwell would do whatever it took to make sure that would happen. With the uncompromising spirit that had damned the king, Cromwell supported a ruthless purge of all in Parliament who did not agree the traitor deserved the most brutal punishment - he had no time for those who would bow and scrape at the feet of a villain.

On 20 January 1649 the king of England was tried at Westminster Hall for high treason. It had been difficult for the charismatic Cromwell to persuade anyone to stand against the man who had been the most powerful in the country - with some of the most prominent lawyers refusing to take part in the trial. However, Cromwell used his persuasion skills - and his sheer force of character - so the trial went ahead. Charles entered the trial accompanied by his lawyers, casting a penetrating glare over every person gathered there. He finally sat, but did not remove his hat. When questioned he refused

to answer, but simply uttered the warning, "Think well upon it, before you go further from one sin to a greater." But Parliament had done their thinking, and there was never any real doubt of the verdict, which was delivered by judge John Bradshaw: "For all which treasons and crimes this court doth adjudge that he, the said Charles Stuart, as a tyrant, traitor, murderer and a public enemy, shall be put to death, by the severing of his head from his body."

The morning of 30 January 1649 was bitterly cold. It was a day that would forever change the fate of England and the world, the people were going to kill their king. Before the end, Charles had made his peace with the verdict, telling his sobbing children not to grieve. His demeanour was eerily calm for one who had ruled with such fire; he had finally discovered his kingly dignity, but it was too late to save him. The crowds had gathered outside the Palace of Whitehall, men, women and children who were oddly quiet and sombre. The killing of a king, no matter the circumstances, was not a

EXECUTION OF A KING

The final hours of a traitor

The mystery executioner

The mask the executioner wore hid his identity well. After the restoration, there were many trials of potential executioners of the king, but none were sentenced. To this day the true identity of the executioner is unknown.

The respectable king

Although his reign was tarnished with selfish and rash actions, Charles approached his execution with a quiet dignity that encouraged sympathy and even a cult of martyrdom to form around the deceased monarch.

A less than enthusiastic crowd

Executions commonly attracted a large crowd and Charles's was no exception, but rather than it being a triumphant and joyous occasion, the execution of a king was no time for celebration, and it was a sombre affair.

Warmly dressed

Charles wakes and calls for two shirts, so his possible shaking from the cold won't be seen by spectators. **8.00am**

Final walk

The king is granted a final walk through St James Park. He walks slowly through the park with his pet dog. **10.00am**

Last meal

As he has taken communion, the king refuses to eat a large meal. He has a glass of claret wine and a single piece of bread. **12.00pm**

Delay

The original executioner suddenly backs down. The replacement is paid £100 and given permission to wear a mask. **1.00pm**

A king on the scaffold

Charles is led to a scaffold covered in black cloth. He turns to the crowd and gives his last speech. **1.50pm**

One stroke

Charles lays his head on the block. When he gives the signal, the executioner brings down the axe and severs his head from his body. **2.00pm**

The head of a traitor

The executioner holds up the king's head and shows it to the people, as is the tradition with the executions of traitors. **2.02pm**

A king's blood

Spectators are invited to pay to go up to the scaffold and dip handkerchiefs in the king's blood. **2.10pm**

celebration. As it neared 2pm Charles was led to the scaffold. He wore two undershirts, fearing that if he shivered in the cold his subjects would mistake it for fear. He was not, and never had been, a coward king. As he reached the block he turned to the crowd and uttered, "I go from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown, where no disturbance can be, no disturbance in the world." Then he knelt and laid his neck upon the block. The executioner severed his head in one blow. There was no cheer, no triumphant joy as the tyrant king was killed, but instead a great groan rose from all who were gathered there.

The legend goes that those who guarded the dead body of the king that fateful night spied a solitary figure dressed in black. As he looked upon the body of the deceased monarch he uttered the words, "Twas a cruel necessity, 'twas a cruel necessity." Whether this mysterious visitor was Cromwell is unknown, but what wasn't in doubt

was that the people of England had sanctioned the killing of their monarch for the first time in their long history.

Also for the first time in its history, England was without a monarch. Instead a lord protector was put in his place for which there was no more

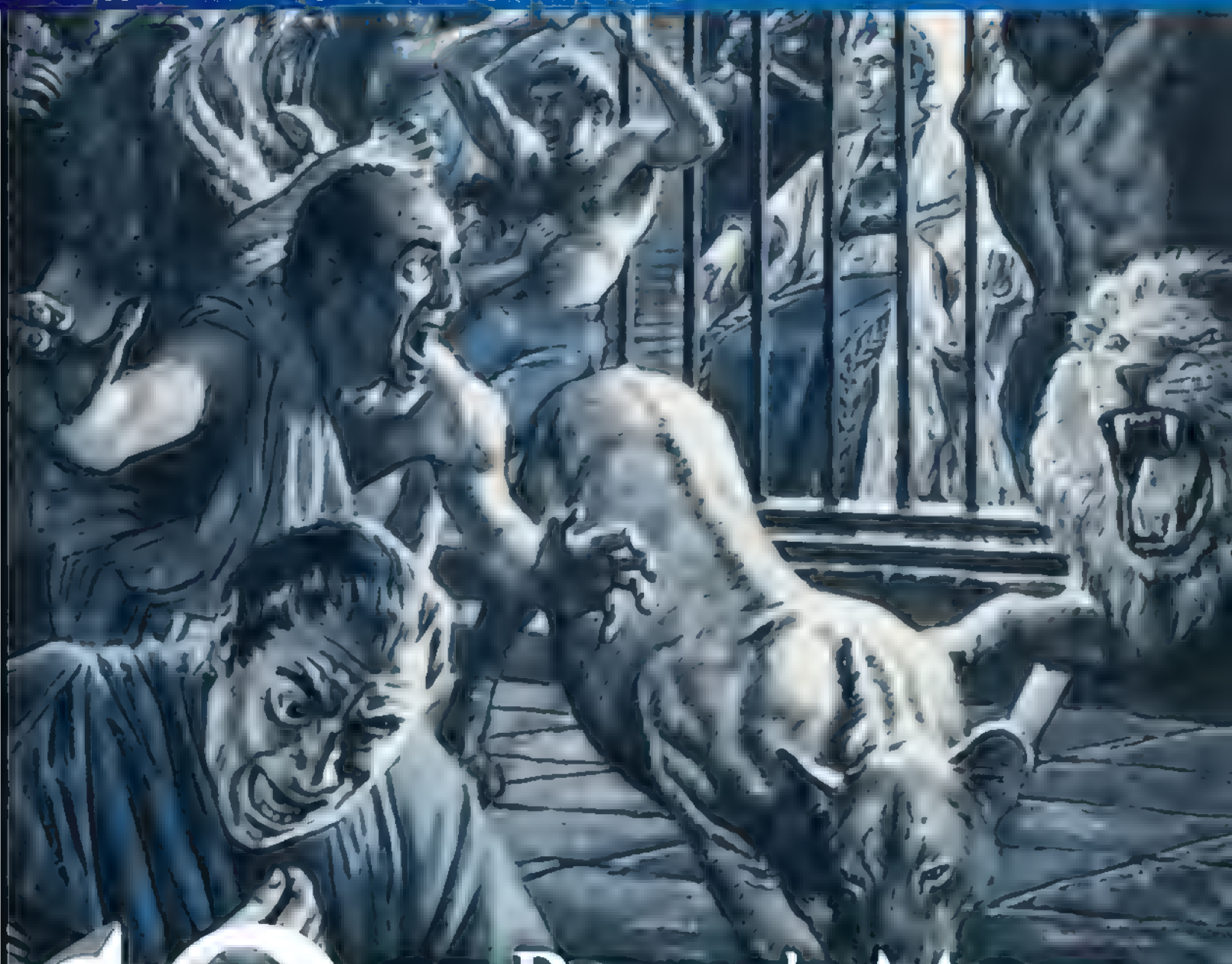
"He needed to die, and Cromwell would do whatever it took to ensure that happened"

viable candidate than the hero who had won the war - Oliver Cromwell. By February 1649 he had abolished the office of king, deeming it "unnecessary, burdensome and dangerous to the liberty, society and public interest of the people" and the imperial crown was destroyed. When, some eight years later, he was offered the crown he

immediately rejected it, proclaiming, "I would not build Jernho again."

England was finally a republic and Cromwell its first citizen, but he would find that it was harder to eradicate the idea of monarchy than it was to kill a king. The monarchy would soon return and the man who had driven the execution of Charles I would find himself on trial for his crimes, albeit when he was already dead, in a macabre ceremony his body was dug up and propped up in court to answer for the crime of regicide.

That was all to come, though, and in 1649 Oliver Cromwell could look back at what he had achieved with pride - the king who had tried to push Catholicism on his nation and who had ignored Parliament for over a decade was dead, thanks largely to Cromwell's military skill and above all, unwavering self belief that he was doing the work of God. The king was dead, long live Parliament.



10 OF ROME'S MOST DESPICABLE CHARACTERS

Written by
Frances White

From crazed emperors to ruthless soldiers, meet some of the most depraved and treacherous characters that lurked in the darkest depths of the Roman Empire

Roads, aqueducts, newspapers – these are just a few of the inventions the Roman Empire gave to the world. Not only was the empire home to the first shopping mall, but it also helped to create the system of social welfare that we use today, transforming an uncivilised old world into one of innovation and splendour. But there is a dark and sinister underbelly of this renowned ancient civilisation, one that runs thick with corruption, deceit and blood. A beacon of progress and luxury the empire may have been,

but it housed some of the most depraved and disturbing men and women to ever grace the planet, making Rome one of the most dangerous places to live in the world.

From the world's first serial killer who rented her services out, to the teenage emperor whose idea of a good time was hiding lions in the beds of his guests, we examine some of the most menacing and memorable characters born of a world where almost anyone could be emperor, and where those in power could trust no one.

GAIUS VERRES 120-43 BCE

The greed that brought Sicily to its knees

Profession: Magistrate

Infamous for: Destroying the lives of an entire nation

X Born to a father who was accused of corruption himself, Verres would grow up to become one of the most abhorrent personifications of the Roman Republic's depraved final years. He became a financial administrator to a consul, and when civil war broke out he used his power to embezzle military funds. In 80 BCE he joined the staff of Governor Dolabella of Cilicia, and indulged his passion for works of art by stripping the temples of their paintings and statues for his own collection. When Dolabella stood trial for his extortions, Verres gave evidence to get him convicted and received a pardon for his own crimes as a result.

In 74 BCE he was appointed governor of Sicily, a rich and profitable province of the empire. The land had previously enjoyed a relatively peaceful and prosperous history but Verres's appointment sent

that crashing down. When wealthy Sicilians died, Verres would use his corrupt judges to get a slice of the inheritance. If judges refused to comply they were swiftly killed. He ordered grand statues to be built in his likeness, abolished a successful agricultural system, thereby throwing farmers into abject poverty and turned a prosperous trading nation into one that struggled to feed its own citizens. His henchmen prowled the country for works of art for their master and seized whatever they liked – even brazenly stealing a public statue of Mercury.

Verres's luck finally ran out when he was made to return to Rome after the pleas of desperate Sicilians. Although he tried to buy his way out of his trial, he was ultimately forced into exile.

GREED

CUNNING

MADNESS

DEPRAVITY

After his exile five books were written that listed Verres's crimes in great detail

ANCIENT ROME'S SHINING LIGHT

The emperor who set an example

Roman emperors are often portrayed as being vain, greedy, bloodthirsty and downright insane, killing their rivals and having no concern for their people, but this isn't entirely true. One period of Roman history known as the 'reign of the five good emperors' is notable, as all five men succeeded the throne by adoption, rather than birth, and had far more stable and successful rules than their blood-right counterparts. No one exemplifies this period more than Emperor Trajan.

After previous relations had been strained, Trajan worked closely with the Senate and delighted the public when he called many exiled Greek intellectuals back to Rome. He also encouraged the building of notable structures that transformed Rome's landscape, such as Trajan's Column and the Alcantara Bridge. He implemented many social-welfare policies and was honoured by the Senate as "the best ruler." Trajan was also a powerful and capable military commander, expanding the Roman Empire to its largest size. Trajan and his just rule were so revered by the Romans that every new emperor was hailed by the prayer: "Be luckier than Augustus and better than Trajan."



LUCIUS CORNELIUS SULLA 138-78 BCE

The dictator who dealt in fear and death

Profession: Dictator

Infamous for: Purging Rome of 9,000 people

IX Born into relative poverty, Sulla was led by his ruthless spirit to become a famed general and eventual dictator of the Roman Empire. Sulla was a beloved general among his troops, but he also had a ruthless and vicious streak that emerged in his 'proscription'.

As soon as he grasped control of Rome, Sulla was determined to purge the land of anyone he perceived as an enemy. The Greek historian Plutarch wrote: "Sulla now began to make blood flow, and he filled the city with deaths without number or limit." Sulla

officially ordered the execution of some 1,500 people, but it is believed that more than 9,000 lost their lives in this brutal purge. A young Julius Caesar only just managed to escape the city. Anyone who dared to shelter a proscribed person would also face death, and the sons and grandsons of the named person were barred from political office. The property of anyone who was executed would be sold off at auction, giving Sulla and his supporters great expanses of wealth.

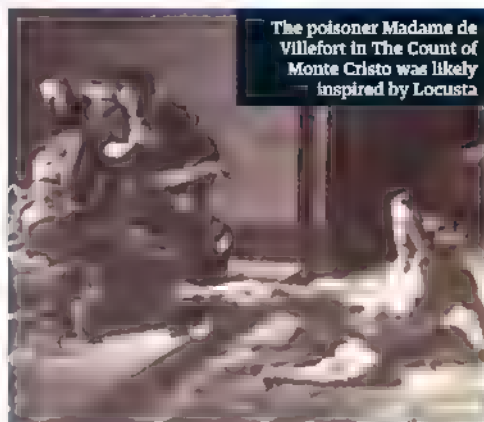
GREED

CUNNING

MADNESS

DEPRAVITY





The poisoner Madame de Villefort in The Count of Monte Cristo was likely inspired by Locusta

LOCUSTA OF GAUL

UNKNOWN-69 CE

The world's first serial killer

Profession: Killer for hire

Infamous for: Poisoning Emperor Claudius

VIII Growing up in the quiet countryside of Gaul, Locusta learned much about the herbs and

plants that grew around her home. Upon moving to Rome, she found her knowledge of herbal lore desired by ambitious men who wished to get rid of their rivals. She began a business as a professional poisoner and made a name for herself. In 54 CE she attracted her most influential patron yet, Empress Agrippa. The wife of Emperor Claudius requested help in killing her husband so her young son, Nero, could claim the throne.

After getting him drunk, they fed him poisoned mushrooms, quickly suffered extreme stomach pains and died. Locusta's talents were required again when Nero ordered her to poison his stepbrother and rival to the throne, Britannicus. When the boy consumed the poison he went into mad convulsions, but Nero calmly told everyone present that he was epileptic. The dinner party continued and Britannicus died a few hours later.

Nero rewarded Locusta richly for her assistance, lavishing her with a grand villa and luxurious gifts. With the emperor on her side, her skills became so renowned that she set up a school where she bestowed her knowledge on eager students. Locusta even gave Nero a poison kit of his own to use in the event of taking his own life. Unfortunately, when Nero was condemned to death in 68 CE, he forgot the kit and had to use his own dagger. With her most powerful ally gone, Locusta was arrested and led through the city in chains before being executed.

GREED
CUNNING
MADNESS
DEPRAVITY



MARCUS PERPENNA VENTO

History's worst-ever dinner host

Statesman

Betraying and murdering a guest

VII

When the military faction he belonged to was defeated by Lucius Cornelius Sulla, Perpenna fled Rome with a small army and a wealth of money. With a greedy desire to rule, he decided to wage war against Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius of the region he had escaped to—Hispania. But Perpenna was a terrible leader and his soldiers soon rebelled against him, demanding to be handed over to Sertorius, the ruler of Hispania. Facing his own death, Perpenna agreed with great humiliation.

Still licking his scars, Perpenna could only watch on as Sertorius grew stronger and stronger. Perpenna encouraged the disdain of his fellow nobles and senators, hoping to feed on their jealousy for his own gain. Uprisings and revolts plagued the region, as the popular and eloquent Sertorius struggled to find the source

of discontent. When Sertorius won yet another victory, Perpenna invited him to a feast in his honor. The celebration, usually an occasion of much festivity, was specially designed to offend and disgust the famed general. Pushed to breaking point, Sertorius resigned to silently ignoring the humiliation. Perpenna used this opportunity to set his minions upon the unsuspecting guest, slaughtering him before he had a chance to defend himself. Perpenna's retribution was swift and brutal, faced with the anger of an even more powerful enemy, Pompey. He hopelessly pled for his life, offering all of Sertorius's papers. Pompey agreed, but when he was given the papers he burned them and executed the betrayer.

GREED
CUNNING
MADNESS
DEPRAVITY



SHOCKING PASTIMES

The depraved and vulgar activities that filled a Roman's spare time

Purging at feasts

The decadent, grand feasts of Ancient Rome are no well-kept secret. More unknown, however, is their penchant for vomiting during these feasts. Wealthy Romans loved their food so much that when they were full, they would induce vomiting so they could continue eating. This was considered a part of fine dining, and slaves were present to clear up any vomit that surfaced during the feast.

Slave abuse

The slave trade in Ancient Rome was a cornerstone of the economy, and the slaves themselves were treated as little less than tradable goods. As they were regarded as property, Roman law didn't view slave sex as infidelity. Seen as having 'no persona', Roman slaves would be sold at auctions or even in shops. If a slave was deemed as having defects, the buyer could take the slave back within six months for a refund.

Lewd graffiti

Some of the most impressive works of art originate from Ancient Rome, but they were also involved in a different art form—graffiti—and the messages were just as rude as today. Experts were surprised by the amount of graffiti on the walls of Pompeii. The messages include boasting, insults and profanities, such as "Phileros is a eunuch", "Celadus makes the girls moan" and "The boss isn't worth a rat's ass!"



Sejanus was responsible for the development of the powerful Praetorian Guard

“Sejanus secretly seduced Drusus's wife and together they slowly poisoned the heir”

SEJANUS 20BCE-31CE The emperor's puppet master

Profession: Soldier

Infamous for: Purgings Rome of any who dared defy him

V Born into the lower upper social class of the Roman Republic, Sejanus was led by pure ambition and drive to succeed. Slowly but surely Sejanus began to creep closer to Emperor Tiberius, and by 23 CE he held great influence over the decisions of the emperor, with Tiberius referring to his confidant as “Socius Laborum” or “My partner in my toils.”

Sejanus consolidated his power by swiftly eliminating any potential opponents, but his primary target was the emperor's son, Drusus. The rivalry between the two was no secret, and Drusus had publicly punched Sejanus during an argument, voicing his objection that a “stranger was invited to assist in the government while the emperor's son was alive.” Sejanus secretly seduced Drusus's wife and together they slowly poisoned the heir until he died of apparent natural causes in 23 CE.

Struck by grief, Tiberius bestowed most of his power to Sejanus. With effective control of Rome, Sejanus led a brutal purge of senators and powerful men. During the purge, Sejanus managed to exile the ambitious widow of Germanicus, Agrippina, and two of her sons, who seemingly starved to death. With statues erected in his honour and his rivals crippled by fear and tyranny, Sejanus was Rome's most powerful man.

Tiberius was alerted to the growing threat and summoned Sejanus to a Senate meeting where he was ambushed and arrested. He was strangled and his body cast down the Gemonian stairs of execution, where a riotous mob tore it to pieces. So furious were the people with Sejanus's deception that they hunted down and killed anyone associated with him.

GREED
CUNNING
MADNESS
DEPRAVITY



MARCUS LICINIUS CRASSUS 115-53BCE

The man who amassed wealth from others' misfortune

Profession: General

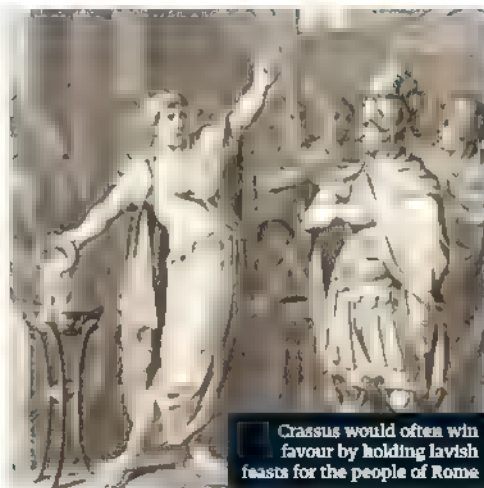
Infamous for: Executing 6,000 slaves

V Crassus is thought to be the richest man in the history of Rome, with an estimated 200 million sesterii, or about £5.4 billion (\$8.4 billion), but he did not earn his fortune from entirely moral means.

One of Crassus's moneymaking enterprises was control of the only fire department in Rome. When a fire broke out, Crassus and his team would arrive at the site and haggle with the owner of the property offering to purchase the doomed building at an outrageously low price. The owner would have to look on hopelessly as their home burned, and more often than not would hand over the property to Crassus. Then Crassus's slaves would move in and eliminate the fire. Once Crassus had acquired the house he would rent it back to the previous owner for a profit.

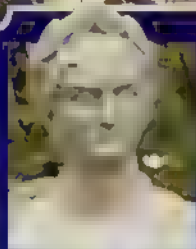
As his wealth poured in, Crassus was able to buy his way into political power, serving as a member of the First Triumvirate with Julius Caesar and Pompey. Crassus also led his own army against the slave uprising of Spartacus. He controlled his force with fear and when any soldier fled from battle, he executed one out of every ten men. When victory was finally achieved, Crassus demonstrated his brutal and bloody streak by crucifying 6,000 of Spartacus's followers.

GREED
CUNNING
MADNESS
DEPRAVITY



Crassus would often win favour by holding lavish feasts for the people of Rome

10 OF ROME'S MOST DESPICABLE CHARACTERS



NERO 54-68CE
Evil incarnate in a single man
Profession: Emperor
Infamous for: The mass slaughter of Christians

IV

One of history's most infamous leaders, Nero won his throne through murder and death is what he brought to Rome. Although his mother's actions had helped him become emperor, Nero became wary of her influence. He attempted to kill his mother in a shipwreck, but when she survived he ordered her assassination, masking it as suicide. He continued his bloody reign by divorcing his first wife before having her beheaded, apparently bringing her head to his second wife. She didn't fare much better, as Nero reportedly kicked her to death while she was pregnant. On a quest for ultimate power, Nero punished anyone who spoke ill of him or the Senate with exile or death. He hunted down his rivals and had them killed. When he was accused of treason, he simply had the accusers executed too.

A frequent visitor of bars and brothels, when a great fire decimated the city Nero spent a vast amount of the empire's money constructing a grand palace featuring a 30-metre (98-foot)-tall statue of himself. To retain some popularity, Nero blamed the fire on Christians, who faced horrific persecution as a result. They were arrested, impaled, torn apart by vicious dogs and even burned as torches to light his gardens.

GREED

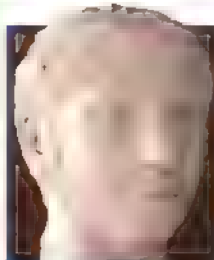
CUNNING

MADNESS

DEPRAVITY



"Nero severely punished anyone who spoke ill of him or the Senate with exile or death"



ELAGABALUS 203-222

The boy emperor and his deadly practical jokes

Profession: Emperor
Infamous for: Throwing poisonous snakes into crowds of people

III

The reports of the cruelty of this notorious emperor are impossible to ascertain, but Elagabalus was certainly one of the most controversial and malicious Romans of all time.

Becoming emperor at just 14 years old, Elagabalus flouted Roman traditions and quickly created a multitude of enemies. Early in his reign, he replaced the head of the Roman god Jupiter

with the head of the deity of his religion and forced the government to participate in his religious festivals. A picture of Elagabalus was placed over a statue of the goddess Victoria, forcing people to make offers to him rather than her. He also ignored tradition when he married a Vestal virgin who was forbidden from engaging in sexual intercourse, else be buried alive. He instated his divinity further when he had himself circumcised in order to be the high priest of his new religion.

One of the most shocking stories of Elagabalus is that he frequently sacrificed children and used their guts to read the future. The young emperor also seemed to delight in twisted practical jokes: in one instance he threw venomous snakes into a crowd in Rome, and even created a lottery with prizes ranging from wasps and dead dogs to an execution note. Credited with creating the whoopee cushion, he also enjoyed tormenting guests by serving them rocks and wax at dinner parties, and even snuck lions into their beds. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Elagabalus was assassinated when he was just 18 years old.



GREED

CUNNING

MADNESS

DEPRAVITY



CALIGULA 12-41CE

The insane emperor who proclaimed himself a god

Profession: Emperor

Infamous for: Throwing innocent crowds to the lions in the Coliseum

I Caligula's reign was not bloody or vicious at first. When he entered Rome as emperor, he was hailed by adoring crowds as "our baby" and "our star", and the first few months were relatively peaceful. But in October 37 CE he suffered an illness that seemed to completely alter his mental state. He began joining in the brutal imperial tradition of killing off anyone he saw as a rival, and that included his own cousin, adopted son and possibly his grandmother. He kept his uncle Claudius alive but tormented him relentlessly with cruel practical jokes and public humiliations. The public weren't spared from his cruelty either, as people were executed without trial or forced to commit suicide.

Desperate for money, Caligula would also target people for execution purely to seize their property, and even auctioned the lives of gladiators at shows. Despite the financial worries, he splashed cash by

constructing two of the biggest ships of the ancient world, with the largest the equivalent of a floating palace, replete with marble floors. His obsession with his public image took a controversial turn when he appeared in public dressed as various Roman gods, and even referred to himself as a god, both in official documents and in person. Two temples were erected in his honour and Caligula removed the heads of statues of ancient gods, replacing them with his own.

Caligula's reputation for outrageous and despicable actions was encouraged when he found himself bored while watching the games at the amphitheatre, so ordered his guards to throw in some of the crowd to be eaten by animals. It was also reported that he enjoyed chewing up the testicles of his victims while they were still attached to them. Caligula was so universally loathed that he became the first Roman emperor to be assassinated, by being stabbed over and over again. The assassins even killed his one-year-old daughter by bashing her head against a wall, to ensure his bloodline would be destroyed for good.

GREED
CUNNING
MADNESS
DEPRAVITY



Irene was eventually kicked off the throne, exiled and had to survive by spinning wool

IRENE OF ATHENS 752-803

The empress that placed ultimate power above all else

Profession: Empress

Infamous for: Blinding her son

I Although considered a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church for her support of idols, Irene of Athens also had a much darker and bloodier streak. Although she came from a noble family she was an unlikely bride of Leo IV, emperor of the Byzantine Empire. When her husband died, Irene became regent for her son, Constantine - just ten years old at the time. A group of powerful figures took the emperor's death as a chance to rebel, but Irene demonstrated her quick and brutal justice by arresting them and forcing them to become monks, making it impossible for them to rule.

Although she was regent, Irene clearly established her dominance by having herself, not her son, on the first coins printed during his reign, printing his name on the less prominent side of the coin. When Constantine came of age, Irene showed no signs of giving up power, but her son had inherited her ambition, so a political battle ensued between the two. The empress arrested her son's men and had them flogged and exiled, as well as any supporters. She also persuaded the army to swear to not accept him as emperor until she died. When Constantine was distracted by the birth of his son, she began to plot a way to become sole ruler. She had her supporters seize her son and imprison him, before he was blinded by having his eyes gouged out, eliminating any chance of him ascending the throne. He died either from his injuries or later in exile. With all her rivals stamped out and family dead, Irene finally had the ultimate control she so desired.

GREED
CUNNING
MADNESS
DEPRAVITY



Caligula was a nickname meaning "Little Boots", which he apparently hated

13 Days To Armageddon

13 DAYS TO ARMAGEDDON



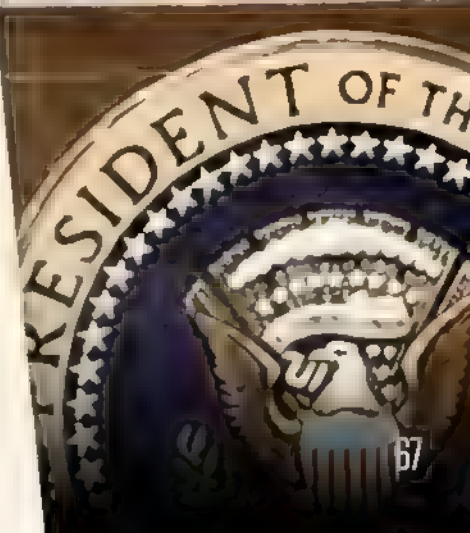
Written by Owen Williams

13 DAYS TO ARMAGEDDON

At the height of the Cold War, Cuba became the fulcrum of a deadly face-off between the Soviet Union and the United States

In October 1962 the world almost ended. At the height of the Cold War, the United States of America and the Soviet Union found themselves in a tense standoff over Russian medium and intermediate-range ballistic missiles being stockpiled in bases in the rebellious Republic of Cuba. Over a terrifying 13 days the two superpowers came to the brink of nuclear war, with their mutually assured destruction looking alarmingly possible. To the Russians, this dark chapter of their history is referred to as the Caribbean Crisis. To the Cubans it's the October Crisis. But to America and much of the rest of the world, the words 'the Cuban Missile Crisis' are the ones that invoke that particular chill of almost unimaginable horror only narrowly averted.

By the time of the Crisis the United States and Russia had been engaged in their Cold War for almost 20 years since the end of the Second World War - some trace it back even further to the First World War. Not a conflict in the usual sense, it had mostly been an affair played out through espionage rather than military force although the superpowers had each involved themselves in regional wars in China, Greece and Korea. After 1945, the single party Marxist Leninist Soviet State found itself in complete ideological opposition to the States' 'free' capitalist society consolidating its control over the Eastern Bloc while the United States tried to contain it through international initiatives.





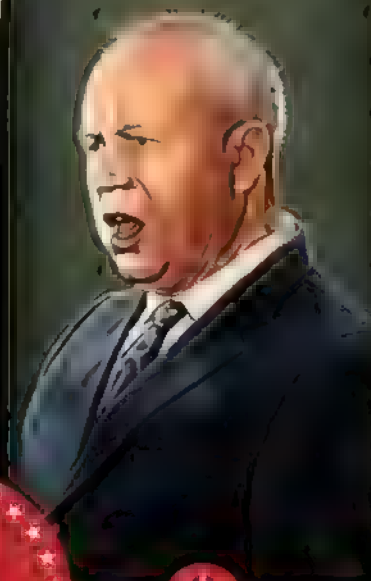
KENNEDY

JFK became president in 1960 for the Democrat Party. He aimed to end racial segregation in schools and public places and liberalised immigration laws. He strengthened unemployment benefits and called on the nation to work together to fight poverty, hunger and disease. He also urged Americans to be active citizens, famously saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

With his presidency at the height of the Cold War, Kennedy was a vehement anti-Communist. He fought Communism in developing nations and inaugurated the Space Race as much from a perceived necessity to beat the Russians to the Moon as for the scientific achievement. As well as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy's administration intervened in Vietnam against Communists there. After Cuba, Kennedy's US negotiated a nuclear test ban treaty with the USSR and the UK.

He served in the US Navy from 1941 until 1945. He was working in the office of the secretary of the Navy when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place, but he subsequently saw action in Panama and the Pacific, commanding torpedo boats and achieving the rank of lieutenant. He received the Purple Heart and the WWII Victory Medal among several other decorations. He was finally released from active service due to a recurring back injury.

Among Kennedy's main advisors were Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield, Secretary of Defence Robert S. McNamara and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, JFK's brother. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy convened the special advisory committee EXCOMM, including all the above, ambassador to the Soviet Union Llewellyn Thompson, with members of the CIA and the Defence Department.



KHRUSHCHEV

Khrushchev was first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1958 until 1964. He was responsible for moving the Communist Party away from Stalinism, ending forced labour and closing the Gulags. He was an early backer of the Soviet Space Programme, and was behind some relatively liberal domestic policies, such as allowing more freedom to the arts and opening up the opportunity for ordinary Soviets to travel abroad.

The Soviet premier appointed himself as head of the USSR's UN delegation in 1960, where he was accused of a double standard: claiming to oppose colonialism while at the same time attempting Communist domination of Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia and the Third World. Achieving the first manned space flight led the world to infer the USSR's nuclear weapons programme was further ahead than it was. Khrushchev was happy not to disabuse anyone of that notion.

He served in the Red Army as a political commissar, both during the Russian Civil War (1917-1922) and WWII. The rank was roughly equal to that of a unit commander, but the commissar has the military to countermand the commander's orders when he deems it necessary. Khrushchev's primary function was as a political intermediary between troops and Moscow. He did see action at the Defence of Stalingrad in 1942, though, which he remained proud of for the rest of his life.

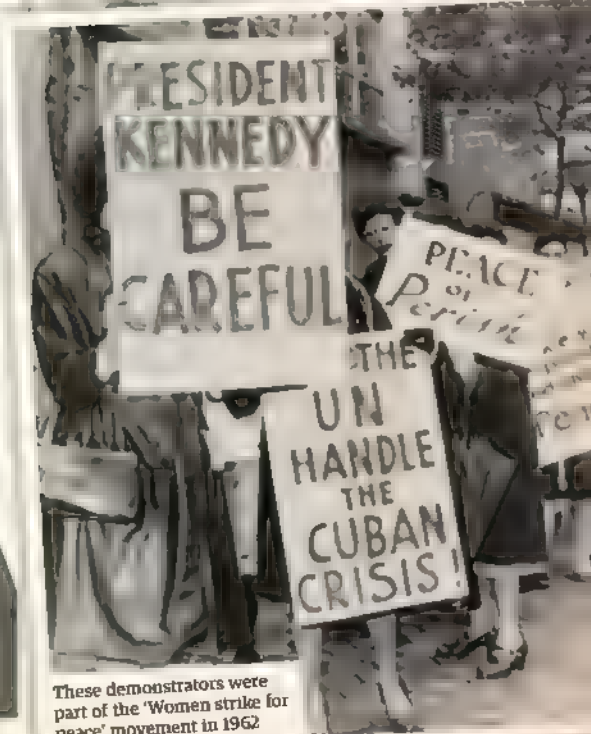
Extraordinary as it seems, Khrushchev, after rising to power, decided Soviet policy alone, without any recourse to advisors at all. This could, of course, be viewed as a weakness, since it cut his decision-making process off from others, whose input may have been valuable. But it also allowed his instincts to free reign: a positive thing in regard to the Cuban Missile Crisis, where his levelheaded inclination toward peace and negotiation arguably averted a global catastrophe.

POLITICAL
STANCE

FOREIGN
POLICY

MILITARY
EXPERIENCE

ADVISORS



These demonstrators were part of the 'Women strike for peace' movement in 1962

A group of Cuban soldiers who helped in fighting the Bay of Pigs invasion



THE BAY OF PIGS

The failed invasion that led to the Crisis

WHY IT HAPPENED

- Concern in the US over the new left-wing direction of Cuba's politics after the removal of dictator Fulgencio Batista by revolutionary Fidel Castro.
- US concern over trials and executions of former Batista supporters.
- Castro was an outspoken critic of the USA.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

A damning CIA report from November 1961 outlined a catalogue of points that made the attempted invasion doomed to failure. Its author, Inspector General Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, identified that there were no policies or contingency plans in place should the invasion have succeeded. Insufficient and poorly managed staff had been assigned to the project, relatively few of whom even spoke Spanish. US intelligence in Cuba had been improperly analysed. There had been little success in organising internal resistance in Cuba, or of involving exiles from the Castro regime or counter revolutionaries. And the operation had simply been too big: jumping from covert guerrilla action to full blown military intervention in a way that made 'plausible deniability' impossible.

● Prelude to invasion

16 April 1961

The US mounts diversionary activities around other Cuban locations, to disguise its true intentions. These include the 'Phony War' of 16 April, around Baracoa and Guantánamo. Cuban revolutionary military forces scramble to meet their US attackers, putting up more of a fight than the US expects.

● Day one

17 April

1,400 US troops, four transport ships and a fleet of smaller fibreglass boats enter the Bay of Pigs. Cuba responds with fighter jets and bombers. US paratroopers are dropped onto the island, but land in a swamp and lose all their equipment. Osvaldo Ramirez, leader of the Cuban resistance against Castro, is captured and summarily executed by Castro's supporters.

● Day two

18 April

Cuban troops, tanks and militia force the invaders and resistance into retreat in several areas. CIA pilots in B-26 bomber planes use bombs, napalm and rockets against Cuban targets, causing civilian casualties alongside their intended police and military victims.

● Day three

19 April

Four US airmen are killed when Cuban forces mount a spirited defence against another CIA air attack. Anti-Castro forces on the ground, with their air support lost and ammunition running low, retreat in the face of a Cuban onslaught and have to be evacuated. The US withdraws from the invasion.

● The aftermath

20 April onward

US destroyer ships search for survivors along the Cuban coast while intelligence gathering flights continue. Hundreds of executions take place in Cuba as retaliation against the opposition, and Castro gloats over his prisoners of war. He offers the US a deal to exchange them for tractors. They eventually get food and medicine instead.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

like NATO. Having wrestled for control and influence in Latin America and the decolonising states of Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia in the intervening years, events between the two sides came to a long-threatened head in Cuba.

The immediate roots of the Cuban Missile Crisis lay in Cuba's regime change of 1959 – a revolution that ousted incumbent dictator Fulgencio Batista and installed the communist commander in chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Army Fidel Castro, as prime minister and later president. As supporters of Batista and other Latin American dictators, the US government suddenly found itself on the receiving end of harsh criticism from Castro when he opened diplomatic relations with them. Their response was a failed attempt to assassinate Castro, after which he demanded the complete withdrawal of the US military from

Guantánamo Bay. They refused and remain there; it's the only US military base in a country it doesn't officially recognise.

Castro travelled to the US in the spring of 1959 to meet with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, but was snubbed by him and met only by Vice President Richard Nixon. Their meeting did not go well, and Castro further alienated the US when he announced to the United Nations that Cuba

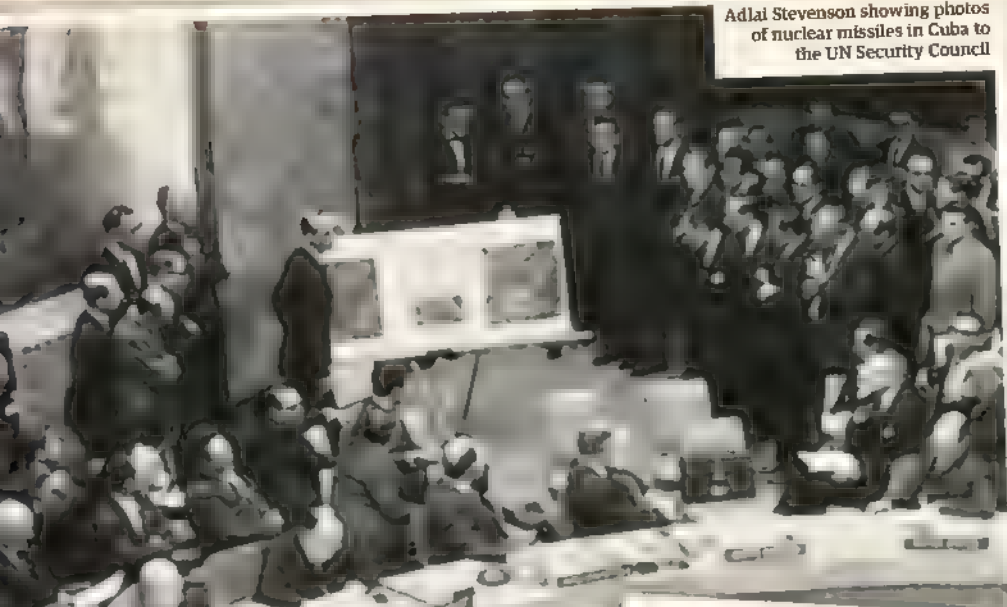
would maintain a neutral position in the fractious relationship between the USA and the USSR. Subsequent policies redistributing Cuba's wealth were predictably unpopular with Americans who owned land there and were seeing it removed from them at rates of compensation they were unhappy with. The CIA launched another failed assassination attempt against Castro, and the US military began launching secret bombing

raids against Cuban sugar facilities in October 1959, targeting one of its most lucrative exports. American attacks on Cuban oil refineries and civilian targets in Havana followed – all of which the US officially denied.

Castro signed a trade deal with Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Anastas Mikoyan in February 1960, hoping it would gain him more leverage in the US. The opposite was true, and Eisenhower, pushed to the limits of his patience with the upstart Cuba, ordered the CIA to overthrow the Republic. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev publicly came out in support of Cuba. America launched yet another three failed Castro assassination attempts, one of them involving the Mafia; and by April of 1961 America had both imposed full trade and economic sanctions against Cuba and undertaken a covert attempted invasion. The newly elected president, John F. Kennedy continued to deny any such activity but by now the American press were on the case and the word was out. Khrushchev warned that the Soviets would intervene against any aggression from the US toward Cuba, and the

"Assassination attempts and attacks on Havana took place, all of which the US officially denied"

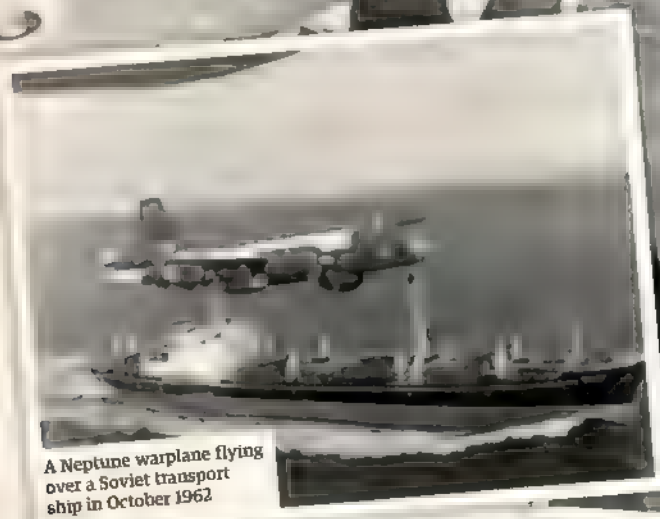
13 Days To Armageddon



Adlai Stevenson showing photos of nuclear missiles in Cuba to the UN Security Council



Strategic Air Command personnel looking at reconnaissance photos



A Neptune warplane flying over a Soviet transport ship in October 1962

THE LONGEST 13 DAYS IN HISTORY

A day-by-day account of the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis

- **16 October**
President Kennedy and his staff are briefed on recon photos of Russian missile bases under construction in Cuba. Kennedy maintains his public schedule while covertly discussing whether to launch air strikes against Cuba or a blockade of its coasts.
- **17 October**
Kennedy continues his official public engagements, feeling it important to keep up appearances rather than arouse alarm. He has lunch with Crown Prince Hassan of Libya and visits Connecticut in support of Democratic election candidates.
- **18 October**
Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko insists that Russia's aid to Cuba is purely in the cause of defence and represents no threat to the USA. Kennedy warns Gromyko of grave consequences should Soviet nuclear weapons be found on Cuban soil.
- **19 October**
Kennedy heads out on the congressional campaign trail to Ohio and Illinois, as previously scheduled before the missile crisis surfaced. Debate continues to rage among his advisors as to the best course of action in Cuba as Kennedy travels.
- **20 October**
Kennedy returns to Washington, and after an intense five hours of deliberation, the plan to blockade – or quarantine – Cuba is finally decided upon. Work begins on the military and naval plans, and on drafting a speech to inform the public of the situation.
- **21 October**
Another day of meetings and phone calls on both sides. Tactical Air Commander Walter Sweeney advises Kennedy that an air strike against Cuba could not guarantee the destruction of all the Russian missiles on the ground.

Nuclear missiles like this Jupiter rocket were placed in Turkey and Italy



US, after the death of 200 of its soldiers and the loss of a further thousand as prisoners of war in the Bay of Pigs debacle, was forced to call off its incursion. Kennedy and his government had been thoroughly humiliated

Beginning to see Kennedy as weak, Khrushchev and the Soviets used the lull to seize an opportunity. In August of 1962, reports began reaching the US from Cuba that Soviet trucks loaded with suspicious equipment had been seen on the island. As retaliation for the US installing its own nuclear missiles close to the USSR, Russia was doing the same in the Caribbean: a sizeable arsenal of SS-4 nuclear warheads had been installed on the island, capable of reaching the US east coast including the political hub of Washington, DC. While initially claiming they were simply providing nonnuclear surface-to-air missiles for Cuba's defence against its hostile neighbours, Khrushchev's real agenda was to gain a stronger political foothold both against the US and its allies in Britain and Europe.

Kennedy's response was to set up EXCOMM, the Executive Committee of the National Security Council, which suggested six options. Doing nothing was obviously impossible, but diplomacy was already not working, threatening Castro generally achieved the opposite of the desired effect, and either war with or the occupation of Cuba was an enormous risk. The ultimate decision, then, was to blockade the island, although for legal reasons (it would be considered an act of war) this was sold as a 'quarantine of Cuba'.

At 7pm on 22 October 1962, Kennedy announced on US television and radio that this 'quarantine of Cuba' was in effect, immediately stopping the shipment of all offensive military equipment to Cuba. 5,000 US troops were deployed to the Guantánamo base, along with airborne and naval forces. In turn, Castro began to mobilise Cuban forces, and Khrushchev declared the quarantine to be an overt, hostile manoeuvre, threatening that war with the United States was becoming a very real possibility if the States didn't leave Cuba alone.

The next day, US planes ascertained that the Soviets were actually performing launch tests on their missiles, leading US ships to take up position off Cuba's coastline, barring any ships from getting any nearer to the island. By 25 October, Kennedy had written to Khrushchev promising full-scale conflict if the Soviets didn't remove their missiles from Cuban soil. Khrushchev's eventual response on 26 October was to suggest a compromise: the USSR would withdraw its nuclear arsenal in exchange for a legal assurance from the US that it would never invade Cuba again, or support any other country attempting to do so.

Kennedy was willing to use this as the basis for some serious negotiations, but Castro, caught in the middle of the standoff, remained unconvinced, distrustful of Kennedy. He wrote to Khrushchev outlining his belief that the US would eventually

invade Cuba regardless of what had been agreed, and giving carte blanche to the Soviets to remain in Cuba with their missiles, as the island's first best line of defence and deterrent. "I believe the imperialists' aggressiveness is extremely dangerous," said the Cuban prime minister in what's now known as 'The Armageddon Letter'. "If they actually carry out the brutal act of invading Cuba in violation of international law and morality, that would be the moment to eliminate such danger forever through an act of clear legitimate defence, however harsh and terrible the solution would be."

On 27 October the confrontation escalated alarmingly when US Air Force Major Rudolf Anderson was shot down and killed in his F-102 fighter when he strayed into Cuban airspace. Further US reconnaissance aircraft attempting to ascertain the lie of the land were also fired upon from the ground, while at practically the same time, dangerous events were occurring beneath the waters of the Caribbean. The US naval destroyer USS Beale had tracked down the Soviet submarine B-59 and begun dropping depth charges on it, scoring several hits. However, the Beale's crew didn't know the B-59 was carrying a 15 kiloton

"The decision to blockade the island was [for legal reasons] sold as a quarantine of Cuba"

22 October
Kennedy informs UK PM Harold MacMillan of the ongoing crisis and writes to Khrushchev. In the letter, Kennedy writes: "Not you or any other sane man would [...] deliberately plunge the world into war which no country could win." He also makes a US television address.

23 October
The US 'quarantine' ships move into place around Cuba, while Soviet submarines lurk nearby. Kennedy asks Khrushchev to halt any Russian vessels approaching Cuba. Robert Kennedy visits the Soviet Embassy to meet with their ambassador.

24 October
Khrushchev responds to Kennedy's letters with hostility, complaining the US is using intimidation. "You are no longer appealing to reason," says the Soviet premier. "You are threatening that if we do not give into your demands you will use force."

25 October
Kennedy writes to Khrushchev urging a Russian withdrawal from Cuba, and rejects UN Secretary General U Thant's proposal of a cooling-off period, as Soviet missiles would remain in Cuba. Heated debates between the US and the USSR take place at the UN.

26 October
Castro writes to Khrushchev urging him not to back down, even if it means making a stand with catastrophic force. But Khrushchev contacts Kennedy to suggest a solution: the USA's removal of its own nuclear weapons from Turkey and Italy in exchange for the USSR's withdrawal from Cuba.

27 October
A US U-2 plane is shot down over Cuban airspace by Soviet missiles, and the pilot is killed. Meanwhile, a Russian submarine with a nuclear warhead aboard is attacked. Robert Kennedy secretly meets with the Soviet ambassador and cautious terms are agreed.

28 October
Radio Moscow announces the USSR has agreed to leave Cuba on the understanding that the US can never again attempt an invasion, and that US WMDs will be removed from sites near Russia. Castro is furious to learn the news from public radio.

13 Days To Armageddon

nuclear torpedo. Running out of air and surrounded by ships that wouldn't allow it to surface, the B-59's officers came horrendously close to desperately launching their payload before Captain Vasili Arkhipov managed to persuade his comrades to stand down and surrender. He may have saved the world in the process.

As all this was occurring, Kennedy received another letter from Khrushchev offering to withdraw his weapons from Cuba if the US would do the same in Turkey. The attacks on the US planes had not been officially sanctioned by the Russians, but had been on the orders of commanders acting independently. The USSR seemed dangerously close to losing control of its own forces, and if that happened, catastrophic consequences might have been on the cards.

Castro, who had not been consulted, was furious to learn the news of the Soviet withdrawal from the radio

Kennedy replied to Khrushchev accepting his terms, pledging the US would never again invade Cuba if the Russian warheads were removed and, in a private addendum, agreeing to remove the USA's own missiles threatening the USSR from Turkey. Khrushchev revealed later that Kennedy also offered to remove the US's nuclear arsenal from Italy, a symbolic gesture only since the Italian weapons were obsolete.

At 9am on 28 October, a message from Khrushchev was broadcast on Radio Moscow, stating that work at the Russian weapon sites in Cuba would cease immediately, and that the arsenal would be dismantled and returned to the USSR. A relieved Kennedy responded immediately promising to honour the agreement and calling Khrushchev's decision "an important and

constructive contribution to peace." Castro, who had not been consulted by either side, was furious to learn the news from the radio.

The US 'quarantine' of Cuba didn't end immediately, with aerial reconnaissance continuing to monitor whether the Soviets were packing up as promised. These missions were thankfully uneventful, and the Russian missiles and their supporting equipment were successfully loaded onto eight ships, leaving Cuban waters between 5 and 9 November. The blockade officially ended on 20 November. The USA removed its nuclear missiles from Turkey the following April. Castro may have been angry, and Soviet-Cuban relations significantly cooled, but the fact was that his position had been thoroughly strengthened by the Crisis. The US could not now attack Cuba – or Castro personally – without breaking the terms of their own peace treaty and risking the full weight of Russian reprisal.

In the aftermath of the Crisis, the Moscow-Washington hotline was set up, directly connecting



UNITED STATES

TARGET TORONTO

The Cuban missiles could have reached Toronto, but Canada's role in the Cold War was often slightly different to the USA's. Several of its prime ministers advocated peacekeeping, diplomacy and support for non-NATO alliances, rather than the USA's more intransigent stance.

TARGET WASHINGTON DC

The political centre of the USA, Washington is home to both the White House and the Pentagon. A new exhibition of documents pertaining to the Crisis was opened in the city in 2012.

TARGET NEW YORK

As an important financial and cultural hub, the missiles ringing New York for its defence at one time outnumbered Washington's. But as a site of left-wing counterculture, the weapons also drew protest. In Greenwich Village on the first night of the Crisis, Bob Dylan sang *You're Going To Miss Me When I'm Gone*.

TARGET FLORIDA

Troops in South Florida were poised for action as the Crisis intensified. Local soldier Henry Mack recalls these 13 days as "the loneliest of his life", primed to launch a nuclear missile if any incoming aircraft failed to respond properly to a challenge. Thankfully, he never had to push the button!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The three leaders state their cases



"In our discussions and exchanges [...] the one thing that has most concerned me has been the possibility that your government would not correctly understand the will and determination of the United States in any given situation, since I have not assumed that you or any other sane man would, in this nuclear age, deliberately

plunge the world into war which it is crystal clear no country could win and which could only result in catastrophic consequences to the whole world."

Kennedy to Khrushchev, 22 Oct 1962



"You, Mr President, are not declaring a quarantine, but rather are setting forth an ultimatum and threatening that if we do not give in to your demands you will use force. Consider what you are saying! And you want to persuade me to agree to this! [...] You are no longer appealing to reason, but wish to intimidate us."

Khrushchev to JFK, 24 Oct 1962



"The Soviet Union must never allow circumstances in which the imperialists could carry out a nuclear first strike against it [If] the imperialists carry out an invasion of Cuba a brutal act in violation of universal and moral law then that would be the moment to eliminate this danger forever, in an act of the most legitimate self-defence. However harsh and terrible the solution, there would be no other"

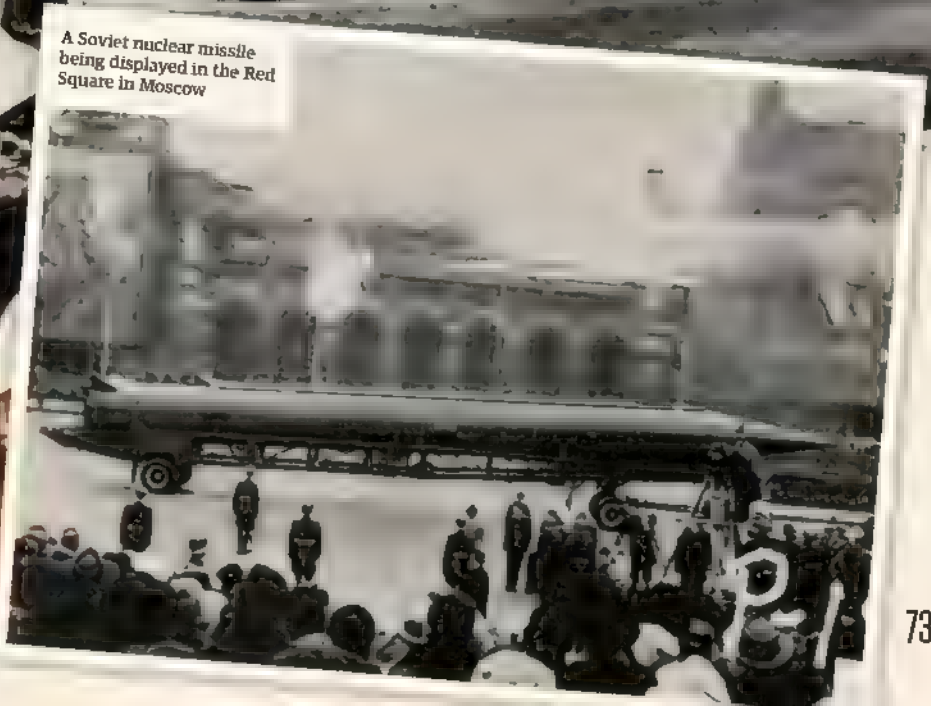
Castro to Khrushchev, 26 Oct 1962

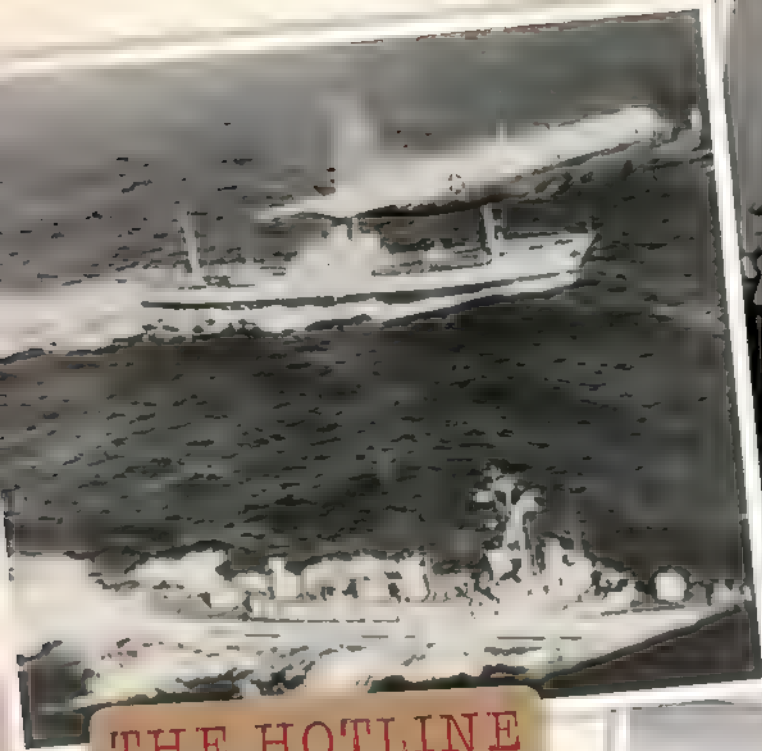


Kennedy signing the Cuba Quarantine Proclamation



A Soviet nuclear missile being displayed in the Red Square in Moscow





THE HOTLINE

It's good to talk

Pictured in the popular imagination as a red telephone, the Moscow-Washington hotline has never been a phone at all. It began life as a Teletype system, and kept that form for two decades until it was replaced with fax machines. Since 2008 it's been a secure computer link for email messages. The hotline was set up immediately after the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963, linking the Pentagon directly to the Kremlin, so that immediate communication can begin should any hostilities or 'misunderstandings' arise. During the Crisis it dangerously often took many hours for the US to translate and decode Khrushchev's messages.

While it seems like a sensible idea, Kennedy was criticised by the Republican Party of the time over the hotline's implementation. The accusation was that Kennedy would alienate his "proven allies" by speaking to his "sworn enemies" first!



Kennedy meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on 18 October 1962



These Soviet missiles were placed in Cuba in October 1962

Khrushchev was seen as having backed away from circumstances he had initiated in the first place

the two political superpowers to facilitate easier negotiation and communication should such a dire situation ever occur again. Major Rudolf Anderson remained the only combatant killed during the standoff (although a further 18 personnel died in crashes and accidents) and his body was returned to the States and buried in South Carolina with full military honours.

While Castro was reasonably secure, neither the US nor the USSR came out of the Crisis covered in glory. Khrushchev remained in power in the Soviet Union for two more years, but his eventual ousting was directly attributable to the embarrassment he and his country had suffered in Cuba, and the Politburo's perception of him as having managed the situation ineptly. He was seen as having backed away from circumstances he had initiated in the first place, agreeing to humiliating concessions in the process.

Meanwhile, while the US publicly attempted to sell the outcome as a victory, it was also conflicted

US Air Force General Curtis Le May for example, although his was a minority opinion, called the Cuban Missile Crisis "the greatest defeat in [US] history". Le May had stridently argued for an invasion of Cuba from the earliest moments of the crisis and continued to do so after the Russians' withdrawal. "We could have gotten not only the missiles out of Cuba, we could have gotten the Communists out of Cuba at that time," he was still railing 25 years later.

In the end, it was perhaps humanity itself that won the Cuban Missile Crisis, receiving in the process a desperately urgent wake-up call that the balance of power on our planet was being juggled between two super states who had the capacity to annihilate one another at a moment's notice and to likely take most everyone else with them. Conservative estimates suggest the casualties of a nuclear war between the US and the USSR

would have numbered in the hundreds of millions.

Scarcely enough, however, the famous Doomsday Clock, which provides a symbolic, visual representation in 'minutes to midnight'

of how close the world is at any given time to a politically related global catastrophe, didn't move during the Crisis, since it happened faster than the clock's board could react. Immediately before the Crisis it stood at seven minutes to midnight and afterward it moved back to 12: the world deemed a safer place thanks to the treaty. Today, the Doomsday Clock's hands stand at five minutes to midnight, 'thanks' to the lack of global action to reduce nuclear stockpiles, the potential for regional conflict, and the effects of avoidable climate change. The idea of mutually assured destruction may in modern times feel like an anachronism belonging firmly in the past. But some sources suggest it's closer than ever.



Lt Frank de Moulpied Larné was a member of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry who fought bravely and were instrumental in stemming a brutal German counter-attack at Cambrai on the Western Front. They withdrew only when ordered, but 40% had been killed, injured or were missing.

In April 1918, the RGLI faced another major battle at Lys. Frank's right arm was shattered by gun fire in the German onslaught and he eventually died from the effects of his wounds in 1922.

He was awarded the Military Cross for exemplary gallantry.

When Kitchener's call to arms went up in 1914, Guernsey eagerly stepped forward.

An initial Double Company was sent to join the 16th Irish Division in March 1915 - the first time since 1066 that an Island force had left to fight for their King overseas.

Many of the men in the first draft of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry were former Militia and some had also been amongst the initial wave of volunteers, which made them a formidable fighting force.

By the end of September, the RGLI was in France with the incomparable 29th Division who had fought so bravely at Gallipoli. The Guernsey boys prepared for their first major battle, at Cambrai on the Western Front.

Bailiwick women also stepped forward to 'do their bit' with as much devotion as Bailiwick men, and they began to fill gaps in the local workforce as well as to volunteer overseas.

Some went to France to work as nurses, some to England to dig for victory in the Land Army and some joined the war effort by working in munitions factories.



The six individuals featured in this stamp issue represent the hundreds of island men and women who stepped into the fray.

Over the next five years, we will tell

more stories and show the impact the Great War had on the Bailiwick of Guernsey, as well as the significant contribution this little community made to the war effort.

Collectors of World War I memorabilia can read more about the six individuals depicted in this emotive issue in our Prestige booklet which also contains the stamps.

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7 LOST CIVILISATIONS

The forgotten superpowers that shaped the world we know today

Written by Jack Griffiths

History is often described as being written by the winners, which is a fair point when you consider the emphasis that is placed on the Romans, Egyptians and Greeks. However, in the ancient world there were many other cultures and kingdoms that helped form the history of the human race and add to humanity's conquest of Earth. Originally full of bustling metropolises and unique cultures, some of these empires were unlucky enough to come into contact with the all-conquering force of the Roman legions or Greek

hoplites, while others were victims of devastating natural disasters. Additionally the fall of some of these civilisations is shrouded in mystery with various theories as to how and why they suddenly vanished. Subsequently, much of their influence and memory have been long since forgotten.

Luckily, the modern world is full of clues that have stood the test of time, from the ruins of fallen cities through to the systems and structures that we use today. These seven forgotten civilisations may not have contributed as much to human progression as

their more famous counterparts, but they remain an integral cog in the evolution of trade, architecture and warfare.

Discover the cultures that built the first aqueducts, invented the 365-day calendar, smelted the first iron weapons and even built the first zoos. Read on to meet the people who gave the Egyptians an honest run for their money and a civilisation that survived two natural disasters that shook their small remote island home, as we shine a light on Earth's greatest lost civilisations.

KHMER EMPIRE

Naturally fortified by a river delta, the Khmer Empire was a formidable state that helped to contour Southeast Asia



Where was it:

Across today's Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand

When did it exist:

800-1400

Strengths: Advanced water

system, strong economy, natural resources

Weaknesses: Uncontrollable population, rival civilisations, overexpansion

Amazing fact: The Khmer Empire only lost one major naval battle in 600 years

Water is the life stream of all civilisations, and the Khmer Empire completely embraced it and used it to its advantage. The Khmer incorporated an extensive water network into their civilisation to allow their capital city of Angkor to flourish on the banks of the Mekong River. Briefly the largest city in the world, Angkor covered 1,000 square kilometres (386 square miles) and is believed to have accommodated around 1 million people.

This city grew out of the remains of the Funan and Chenla Empires, and was a similar size to many of the world's modern cities. The advanced water system contained a network of channels and reservoirs that utilised the monsoon climate to collect water for use in the dry season. Each area of the city had channels of fresh water running through it, earning it the title of a 'hydraulic city' by contemporary historians. Its strong economy allowed the empire to expand into Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. This expansion brought the Khmer people into direct contact with other settlements and empires such as the Bagan and Sukhothai to the west and their greatest rivals, the Cham, to the east.

Their most famous leader was Jayavarman II, who led the civilisation to their greatest military successes against the Cham. The Khmer state was divided up into over 20 provinces and trade with China boomed. The biggest exports were wood, ivory, cardamom spices, wax, gold, silver and silk, and cash flooded into Angkor. The gradual decline of the Khmer can be attributed to three main factors: the diluting of their culture through new strands of Buddhism, a gradual weakening of their water network, and an overexpansion that brought them into conflict with the Ayutthaya Kingdom and fully exposed to military threats.



Angkor Wat in modern-day Cambodia was one of the Khmer Empire's holiest places

7 LOST CIVILISATIONS



A Tiwanaku monument that still stands today



The city walls of Velathri, a major city in the Etruscan League



The Hittites engaged in a fierce battle against the Egyptians



TIWANAKU

This civilisation proved you didn't need an army to survive



Where was it: **Bolivia**

When did it exist:

500-900

Strengths: **Good agricultural location, construction techniques, expert farmers**

Weaknesses: **No writing**

system, overuse of their farming land, no military presence

Amazing fact Tiwanaku cities were so grand that when the Incas discovered them, they believed they were made by gods

The most prominent civilisation to come out of Peru was the Incas, whose culture flourished from approximately 1200 until the Spanish conquest of 1532. However, before the Incas came the Tiwanaku tribes, who colonised both Chile and Peru. A multi-ethnic society who settled in the upper reaches of the Andes, the Tiwanaku are remembered for their many remarkable monuments that still stand today. The most famous of these were the Kalasasayas Temple and the step pyramid of Akapana, which were used as a temple and observatory respectively. As well as these impressive structures, the

Tiwanaku also had underground drainage and paved streets, with cities that were planned in a grid system.

Over 10,000 people lived in their capital city (also called Tiwanaku), which is believed to be one of the oldest cities in the world. Their society was aided by its base in the rich Titicaca basin, which had just the right mix of rainfall, food sources and land. Subsequently the Tiwanaku became expert farmers and pioneered a method of farming known as 'flooded-raised field' agriculture, which used the effective system of irrigation. This well-fed population (there were over 50,000 agricultural fields in the capital) allowed the Tiwanaku to expand into many other areas of South America. The civilisation was at the peak of its powers in the 8th century, but mysteriously ended in the 9th century. No one is quite sure why the Tiwanaku disappeared but is believed that they, as well as a similar culture known as the Wari, were victims of a dramatic shift in climate which devastated the crops and caused mass starvation. As they had no writing system and never engaged in war with Spanish conquistadors, the Tiwanaku are a true forgotten civilisation.

ETRURIA

Before the Romans, Italy was occupied by a civilisation who were just as advanced



Where was it:

Central Italy

When did it exist:

800-250 BCE

Strengths: Construction expertise, iron and copper trade, urban planning

Weaknesses: Poor army, territory desirable to invaders, locality to Rome

Amazing fact: The Etruscans invented the idea of armed combat for sport, or as we more commonly know them: gladiators.

The Etruscan story begins in post-Iron Age Italy. Originally inhabiting the area we now know as Tuscany, Ancient Etruria grew in the 9th and 8th centuries BCE thanks to its rich seams of mineral ores, strong agriculture and plentiful timber resources. The civilisation reached the height of its power in the 6th century BCE when 12 city-states

were allied in the Etruscan League. The main cities were Tarquinii, Vulci, Caere and Veii, whose economy was based on a thriving copper and iron trade with the Greeks and Carthaginians. Being the first real major settlement on the Italian peninsula, Etruria became the basis of the civilisations in late antiquity to follow. They were one of the first peoples to dispose of kings and be ruled by an intelligentsia of aristocrats and magistrates, and their architecture and construction techniques arguably influenced the Romans as much as the Greeks did. Their homes were made from mud brick baked in the hot Mediterranean sun mixed with wood and stone, and some even had upper storeys. These houses, which were very advanced for their time, were set into the first type of rectangular urban planning and were accompanied by roads and bridges, which used arch and vault construction techniques. Even



Dr Kathryn Lomas



Dr Lomas is an honorary senior research associate at University College London and a part-time tutor in Classics at the University of Durham.

The most significant Etruscan remains are the cemeteries of their key cities and, to a lesser extent, their settlements. Unlike the Greeks, they did not leave impressive buildings, but their tombs (many with frescoes depicting Etruscan society, myths and legends) and their contents are elaborate. Their most obvious lasting impact is the dissemination of writing and literacy. The Etruscans were the first Italian culture to adopt writing, adapting the Phoenician alphabet in the 8th century BCE.

the Latin alphabet and the Roman toga have their origins with the Etruscan people.

Etruria is also known for its maritime prowess as they explored the Adriatic and Aegean Seas, establishing colonies on Corsica, Sardinia and even in Spain. The Romans, a civilisation that owed so much to the Etruscans, proved to be their downfall. The growing Roman military juggernaut proved irresistible to Etruscan resistance as their league of city-states was annexed into the new Roman Republic in 250 BCE.

HOW WE PICKED OUR LIST

Choosing which 'forgotten' civilisations to include was difficult as it depends on how the word 'forgotten' is defined. It was essential that we find civilisations that were much less known than the major cultures of

antiquity, such as the Romans and Greeks, but also contributed to the human race. There were a number of South American civilisations, but the Tiwanaku fit the bill due to their iconic pyramids and innovative farming

methods. The Etruscans and Minoans were definite choices as they fit the bill perfectly, while the Hittites and Phoenicians both contributed to their area and era in ways that haven't been discussed extensively.

HITTITE EMPIRE

Egypt's greatest rivals, the Hittites were masters of the chariot



Where was it:

Turkey, Syria and Iraq

Dates of civilisation:

Ca 1700-700 BCE

Strengths: Expert chariot makers, iron manufacture, fortified city of Hattusa

Weaknesses: Drawn-out rivalry with Egyptians, city-states had no political unity, slow economical advancement

Amazing fact: Hittite battle axes were shaped like human hands!

At its peak, the Hittite Empire rivalled the more famous kingdom of Egypt, and were such a threat that Egypt's Pharaoh Ramesses II resorted to signing a peace treaty with the Hittites after the brutal Battle of Kadesh, history's biggest chariot battle. However,

they slipped quietly from the historical radar after being assimilated into the Assyrian Empire and because their culture varied considerably between each region. The Hittites' call to fame was their chariot building. Among the first civilisations to pioneer the manufacture of iron, their warrior-like culture thrived before being overwhelmed by the superior Assyrians.

At its largest extent, Hittites were found in modern-day Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Like many other forgotten civilisations, Hittite lands were divided up into city-states with no political unity with each other. The biggest of these was the mountain fortress of Hattusa, which was heavily fortified by King Suppiluliuma. The Hittite Empire collapsed in 1160 BCE after civil war and a scramble for the throne. Scattered and leaderless, a settlement was formed between the Syro-Hittite peoples, but this was only a brief respite before they were invaded by the Assyrians in 700 BCE.



ASSYRIA

Combining a strong military ethos with huge leaps in education, the Assyrians were a force to be reckoned with



Where was it:

Iran and Syria

When did it exist

2400 BCE - 1300 CE

Strengths: Technological advances, iron weapons, emphasis on education

Weaknesses: Proximity to other strong empires, administration spread too thinly

Amazing fact Assyria contained several zoos as one of their kings, Tiglath-Pileser, was obsessed with animals

The Assyrians shared the area of Mesopotamia (Iraq, Turkey and Syria) with the Babylonians, but they could not have differed more. While in Babylon the kingdom was ruled by the priesthood, Assyrians were ruled by kings and generals. This allowed the Assyrians to become a much larger military power and they were able to expand their empire considerably. The benefactors of the rich and fertile land on the Arbel and Nineveh Plains, the Assyrians amassed a huge population who gathered in their largest cities, Arbel, Ashur and Nimrud. They spoke Akkadian and were some of the first peoples to record writings on stone tablets and later parchment and papyrus.

The Assyrians were pioneers of animal domestication, pottery, controllable fire and iron smelting - it was the latter technology that gave their military a huge boost. Fighting enemies armed with bronze, the stronger iron weapons allowed them to conquer the Hittites, who were roundly defeated at the Battle of Nihniya in 1245 BCE. Assyrian policy for defeated powers was to not incorporate their people into their nation but deport them to ensure there was no rebellion under their rule. Exceptions were only made if the individual or group was believed to be of use to the greater Assyrian society such as scholars. One of the Assyrians' greatest achievements was in education, as the School of Nisibis is believed to be the first-ever university teaching theology, philosophy and medicine. These houses of education provided the first systematic lists of plants and animals, as well as progression in other areas, such as an early postal system.

The Assyrians are also attributed with building some of the first aqueducts and arches, hundreds of years before the Romans, and introducing the modern idea of keeping time. Pax-Assyria ruled the majority of Mesopotamia for approximately 1,800 years, where their cities were huge metropolises guarded by extensive fortifications. Unlike

Assyrians were innovators of weaponry and military strategy



other settlements of the age, the Assyrians had a kingdom that was unified and not limited to separate city-states. Instead, imperial administration ruled the land as local governors reported to the central authority.

The final Assyrian demise is shrouded in mystery, but it is believed they entered a dark age in 1300 after constant wars with the Byzantine Empire. After their empire crumbled, their civilisation saw a mass influx of Jews and Arabs. Assyrians were primarily Christian, but after high taxes were put on this faith, they changed to Islam. This effectively ended the idea of being 'Assyrian'. As the Assyrians were ethnically distinct from both Arabs and Jews, this may be a contributing factor to their slip into relative obscurity.

The Assyrian war machine besieging the ancient town of Lachish in what is Israel today

Dr Lee L. Brice



Dr Brice is a professor of Ancient History and the president of the Association of Ancient Historians at Western Illinois University.

The Assyrians overextended their empire and were wiped out by the Chaldeans, who themselves fell to the Medes and Persians. The Assyrians were the model army in the Ancient Near East, and their cultural and military legacy was an immense cultural and military impact on the Persian Empire.

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE IN NUMBERS

15 METRES

The thickness of the walls surrounding its capital city

1 TON

The amount of gold seized during its invasion of Jerusalem

30,000

The number of clay tablets found in the ruins of an Assyrian library

200,000

The size of the empire's army at its strongest

2,100

The number of gods in Mesopotamian religion

4 MILLION

The number of people deported by the Assyrians



The Minoan city of Knossos

MINOA

The Minoans flourished as expert traders and shipbuilders



Where was it
Crete

When did it exist
3000-1100 BCE

Strengths Bureaucratic hierarchy, shipbuilding, knowledge of metallurgy

Weaknesses Weak military, natural disasters

Amazing fact The Minoans had a sport that involved jumping over bulls' horns

Of all the lost civilisations, the Minoans may be the most mysterious. Isolated on the Greek island of Crete, their society flourished with little interruption for centuries. Arguably the first European civilisation, they first settled on Crete in 3000 BCE and were later influenced by the neighbouring Greek and Egyptian civilisations with whom they frequently traded with. Minoan culture originally had no centralised government and a flexible ruling system with large, grand palaces acting as the key areas of administration. Tombs known as 'tholos' were the key architectural feature of the Minoans and this, along with their paved road system, running water and pottery was incorporated by the later Greek and Roman civilisations. By 2000 BCE, kings had assumed control of the island as wine, olive oil, wool and cloth exports flourished. This signalled the beginning of a bureaucratic system and social hierarchy on the island, with nobles and peasants making up an early feudal system. Women also played a large role in society, serving as administrators and priestesses, and had the same rights as men. It was this unity that made the Minoans such a remarkable people.

The Minoans had a strong maritime presence that helped them import large sums of copper, silver and gold. In around 1700 BCE, the Minoan culture was shaken by an earthquake that destroyed many of their settlements. They managed to recover from this natural disaster, but now had company on the Mediterranean, Greeks and Mycenaeans began to threaten trade interests, especially as the Minoans had now expanded to other Greek islands such as Thera, Rhodes, Melos and Kythira. Their luck got even worse when in 1375 BCE, the island's largest city, Knossos, was devastated. Historians argue whether this was the work of an invasion force or a volcanic eruption, but either way, this crippled the Minoan people, who were dispatched by an oncoming invasion force in 1100 BCE. The people of Crete now answered to Athens. The Minoans would never trouble the history books again.

Dr Nicoletta Montigliano



Dr Montigliano is a reader in Aegean Prehistory at the University of Bristol and a specialist in Minoan archaeology. I would not say that the Minoan civilisation is 'forgotten' - Instead, I would say it is not as well known as the Roman, Greek or Egyptian civilisations for three principal reasons.

First, because the Minoans have been known to scholars and the general public alike for a much shorter time, having been rediscovered only in the early-20th century; second, because they have left their mark on a smaller geographical area; and third, because their artefacts and monuments, although impressive, are not as large and grandiose as those of the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans.

PHOENICIA

A kingdom of expert traders, this civilisation sailed the seas with no fear and colonised vast swathes of the Mediterranean



Where was it:

Lebanon and Israel

When did it exist:

4000-332 BCE

Strengths: Peaceful and diplomatic city-states, maritime strength, dye and metal production

Weaknesses: Minimal military strength, no real capital city or stronghold

Amazing fact: The Ancient Olympic Games originated in Phoenicia

Before transport systems on land became popular waterways were the best way of travelling long distances, be it for trade or conquest. The greatest pioneers of sea travel in the ancient world were the

Phoenicians who made the Mediterranean their own until their demise at the hands of Alexander the Great in 322 BCE. A series of independent city-states, the biggest of their settlements were Tyre and Sidon. A peaceful people, it is believed these states never once went to war with each other, and their peaceful and diplomatic reputation helped them stave off invasion for a prolonged period, simply because their trade was too valuable to lose.

The Phoenicians' openness to dealing with all nations they came across allowed them to trade a variety of goods. They were particularly skilled in shipbuilding (they were the first people to invent the curved hull and the galley design), glass making, jewelry and even furniture. There is evidence of Phoenician involvement throughout the Mediterranean, even reaching as far west as

modern-day Spain and Portugal. There are also claims they sailed to Britain in search of the island's rich tin seams. Equally unknown to many, they are credited with founding Carthage, a city that would become a major centre in both the Carthaginian and Roman Empires.

Phoenicia is known as Canaan in Hebrew and is named after 'phoinikes', the Greek word for purple, due to their production of purple dye, which would later become the colour of royalty and aristocracy in both Greece and Rome. Prior to Alexander's conquest, the Persians invaded Phoenician lands in 539 BCE, but the Macedonian invasion was much more devastating, especially for Tyre. The majority of the cities such as Sidon submitted automatically, unwilling to cause bloodshed against Alexander's vastly superior army. However, Tyre decided to take the invaders on at their own game but this backfired spectacularly as hoplites laid siege to the island city for seven months and massacred the population once they had overcome the fortifications. After the Macedonian decline, Phoenicia became a Roman state in 64 CE and developed a Hellenistic society and culture.

The Phoenician world was based around trade from their busy ports



Dr Mark Woolmer



Dr Woolmer is a fellow in Ancient History in the Department of Classics and Ancient History and assistant principal of Collingwood College, Durham University.

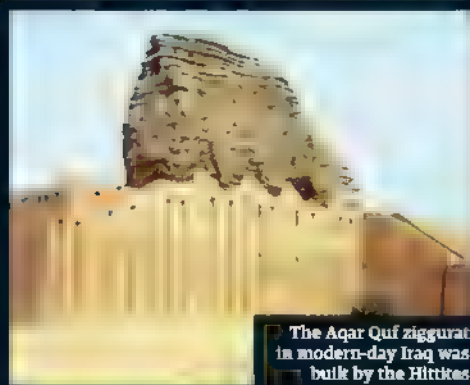
The Phoenicians have long been considered a lost or forgotten civilisation due to the almost complete loss of their literary culture. None of the histories, chronicles, philosophical treatises, religious manuals or scientific texts have survived the ravages of time. In one of history's greatest ironies, the very civilisation responsible for transmitting the alphabet to the West has left virtually no written legacy. Compounding this problem is the fact that until recently, there had been no systematic excavations of Phoenician sites.

WHICH WAS THE GREATEST?

Every civilisation on our list has its own merits and drawbacks, but the Assyrians were undoubtedly the most successful of the civilisations included as they had the largest empire and survived for the longest period of time. However, where would Mediterranean trade have been without the Phoenicians?

Would Rome have still risen without the Etruscans? How long would the Minoans have lasted if they weren't damaged by two natural disasters? The Tiwanaku could well be the 'true' forgotten civilisation as, out of all of our entries, they left the least amount of clues to their history and vanished under mysterious

circumstances. Overall, it must be said that from our comprehensive list, the greatest forgotten civilisation must be the Assyrians for their ability to harness an extensive and populous empire and the fact that some of their descendants still roam small pockets of the Middle East in search of a homeland.



The Akar Quf ziggurat in modern-day Iraq was built by the Hittites



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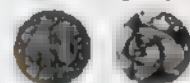
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HOUDINI'S FINAL TRICK

Houdini was the world's greatest illusionist, but when he suffered a tragic loss, his love for trickery became a hatred of fraud

Written by Alex Hoskins

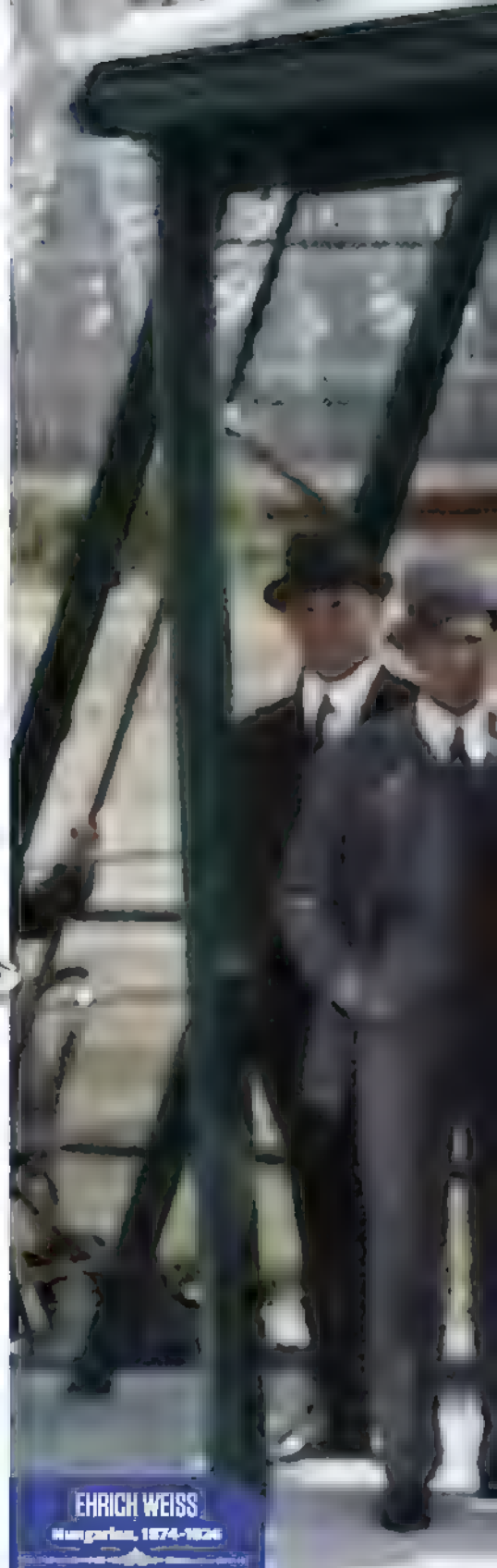
It's 1923. Those gathered around the table at the séance are enraptured by the wonder of what unfolds before their eyes. The medium at the head of the table is producing what looks like an otherworldly ectoplasm from their mouth, while objects are flying around the room. Any gathered there who didn't believe in spirits beyond the grave before certainly do now. There is one man at the table, however, who doesn't seem as surprised as everyone else. In fact, he looks strangely familiar. Suddenly, the man leaps from his chair and takes off a rubber nose and wig, bellowing "I am Houdini. And you are a fraud!"

Ehrich Weiss, better known as Harry Houdini, could confound audiences with death-defying acts of escapology, magic and mystery. Yet in his later career, he became obsessed with debunking spiritualists, appalled by the way in which they fooled the general public and made a mockery of grief. That wasn't the magic he knew and loved, and in his crusade, he gained a reputation for a special brand of scepticism. He was an instrumental member of a 'detrunking team' for *Scientific American* magazine, and would attend thousands of séances throughout his lifetime, in order to truly understand the methods used by tricksters. In the end, it would all but take over from his previous magic career. Houdini became increasingly consumed with the idea of busting

myths, until his untimely and, some would say, suspicious death.

Spiritualism was at its peak during Houdini's lifetime, but it started to gain momentum much earlier. The landmark case that, for some, gave spiritualism credibility involved the Fox sisters in Hydesville, New York, 1848. Upon moving into a new family home, a knocking sound could often be heard coming from within the walls and fixtures of the building. As time went on and the knocking continued, the sisters created a sort of 'communication' with the knocking noises, whereby they would make noises, and hear replies in the form of knocks from the walls. On investigating the history of the house, they found that a local man had been buried in the house's basement, and the noises were believed to be his way of contacting the living from beyond the grave. The tale gripped America, and essentially formed the foundations of spiritualism as it was known in Houdini's time.

Years later, one of the sisters, Margaret Fox, admitted the stunt had been faked and confessed that she had battled with the guilt of deceiving the whole nation. Blaming the stunt on her youth and naivety, she called it "the greatest sorrow of [her] life". She retracted the confession later, but the truth of the story was largely irrelevant by that point. Spiritualism had set down its ghostly roots.



EHRIK WEISS

Hungarian, 1874-1926

Brief Bio

Born in Hungary into a working-class family, Weiss emigrated with them to Wisconsin, USA, when he was four years old. After reading a biography of Robert Houdin, a great French magician, he decided to become an illusionist, and is best known for tricks of escapology. He also performed vanishing acts and other tricks, before debunking spiritualism after the death of his mother.

“He became
consumed
with the idea
of busting
myths”



Houdini's Final Trick

Spiritualism offered a social accessibility in a way that no other religions did, as women and those of lower social means were able to lead sessions, and even went on to become some of the country's most famed mediums. The phenomenon also tapped into the huge loss of life in the First World War, and part of its success may have been linked to a mass grief across the nations involved. Mediums would demonstrate their powers in various ways, ranging from freely moving tables and chairs and unexplained noises to the production of ethereal ectoplasm from their mouths or genitals.

As a magician, Houdini was incredibly deft at recognising the tricks played by mediums. In his early career, he had even played some of them for audiences himself. At a show in Kansas, he had wowed audiences by recounting the name of a recently killed man in the town where he was performing. He had in fact just strolled around the town's cemetery, checked local birth and death records and spent time talking to local gossips. The information he revealed on stage was something every audience member knew, but the theatrical setting and apparent contact from the dead was too much for some to handle, and audience members fled the auditorium in fear.

When Houdini's mother, Cecilia Steiner Weiss, fell ill and died on 17 July 1913, he was devastated. The funeral was held back, against Jewish custom, so that he could see the body one last time, and he was largely thought to never have recovered from the grief of losing her.

Houdini and Cecilia had always been close; she had supported his



Houdini's fame garnered him several film roles



Houdini was an entertainer first and foremost, but was driven by a moral duty to protect the vulnerable

HOUDINI'S OTHER GUISES

Houdini wasn't just an illusionist - he tried out other jobs too

Film star

Houdini's film career began as a way to show his outdoor escapes as part of his stage show, but grew quickly. His first starring role was in a serial called *The Master Mystery* and from there followed films such as *The Grim Game*, *Terror Island*, *The Man From Beyond* and *Haldane Of The Secret Service*. Houdini's film success could never match up with his affection for magic, and in 1923, he bowed out of the movie business altogether.

Spy

In 2006, the book *The Secret Life Of Houdini* claimed Houdini was a spy for Britain and the US in WWI. Houdini could speak German, which would have been essential, and authors William Kalush and Harry Sloman argued Houdini spied on political leaders and royalty, using his career as a cover. The link was made when they found a diary written by William Melville, a British spymaster, which mentioned Houdini.

Aviator

Just after 1900, Houdini was gripped by a fascination with flight, and purchased a French biplane in 1909. He became a competent pilot and flew around Australia, intending to be the first person in the country to do so. It came to light that a Mr Defries from London had already pipped him to the post three months before, and never one to do things by halves, Houdini didn't fly his plane again.



"Houdini gained a reputation for a special brand of scepticism"

THE GREAT HOUDINI'S GREATEST TRICKS

01 The cell was made of mahogany, metal and glass, so that a submerged Houdini could be seen. However, for the escape itself, a curtain was drawn across the cell.

02 The cell would be filled with water on stage as Houdini drew attention to the various inescapable features of the cell, then went off-stage to change into a bathing suit.

03 Houdini was strapped into ankle stocks attached to the top frame of the box. He was then hoisted, head first, into the cell. Water spilled over the sides creating more air space, and a curtain covered the tank for the escape.

04 Houdini would use the bars to help himself up to the top of the cell, free his feet from the stocks and climb out from the cell.



The Vanishing Elephant 21 September 1912



01 Houdini would describe the large box on stage as being "around eight feet [2.4 metres] high", but it was actually much larger. The huge theatre made the box look small in comparison.

02 Houdini fed the elephant and led her into the box, then closed the front curtains of the box.

03 A team of 12 men were tasked with moving the box around, while the trainer, who was inside with the elephant, moved her to one side.

04 A black curtain matching the inside of the box was drawn over the interior, hiding the elephant. The circle cut into the back of the box allowed in enough light to mask the darkness in the box and the front curtain was bunched to one side of the box to ensure the elephant was hidden.

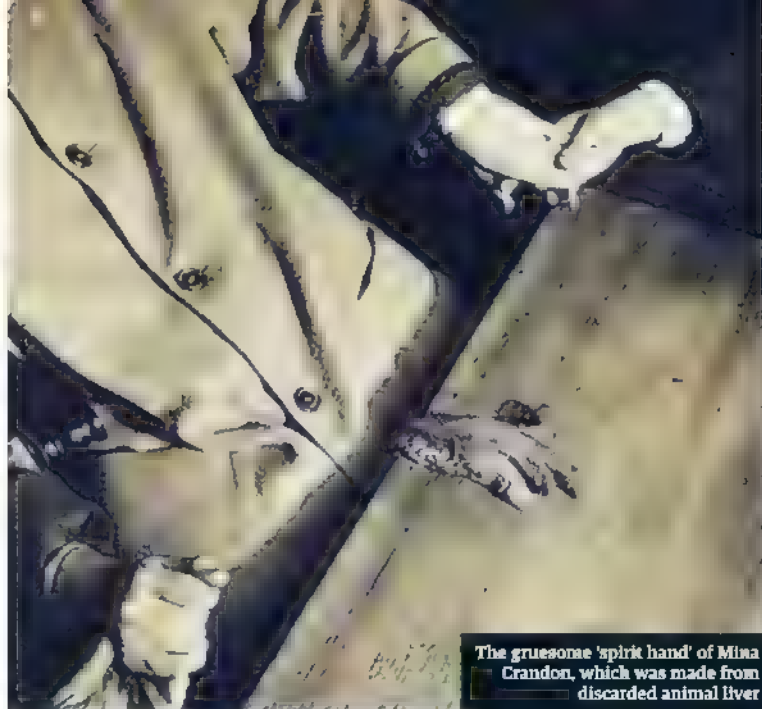


ambitions to become a magician from early in his life, and after her death, Houdini sought help from mediums in the hope of contacting her again. But at every attempt, Houdini was unconvinced by the attempts of the spiritualists he knew to be charlatans. It was this disappointment at not being able to speak to his mother again that fuelled his anger against spiritualism into something approaching an obsession.

With each trip to a séance or medium, his fervour against their trickery grew, so eventually, he began attending the events in order to work out how tricks were done, rather than in the hope of being convinced. He began to argue in public forums that mediumship was a particularly indecent type of fraud. Houdini chose to wage war not just in person, by attending séances and revealing frauds in small groups, but also through newspapers and books. His writing was always mysterious and often pompous, self-aggrandising and arrogant, and invited plenty of detractors, but also struck a nerve. Just as the temptation to discover how a trick is performed is strong, so the excitement of discovering the methods behind mediumship gripped the public.

Houdini worked with many writers and thinkers to get his message to the masses. His book *A Magician Among The Spirits* was co-written by CM Eddy Jr, and later he commissioned a book to be written by H.P. Lovecraft on the fundamental problems of spiritualism. He also began to tour with talks discrediting the methods of the mediums, where he would show slides of famous mediums and systematically denounce their supposed beliefs. It seemed he was just as entertaining a cynic as he was a magician.

Naturally, a nation largely convinced by the efforts of spiritualists was not entirely happy



The gruesome 'spirit hand' of Mina Crandon, which was made from discarded animal liver



THE STRANGE CASE OF MINA CRANDON

Who was Mina Crandon?

Mina was a prominent Boston socialite who gained a reputation as a psychic, going by the name 'Margery' in the 1920s. She was married to Dr Le Roi Goddard Crandon, a local surgeon, in 1918. She started to experiment with spiritualism as a pastime, and displayed a seemingly natural ability to communicate with the dead.

How did she create the illusion of spiritualism?

'Margery' dressed in skimpy clothing, in order to give the impression of openness and an inability to conceal objects. One of her most famous tricks was the production of a sinewy 'spirit hand', supposedly belonging to her brother, Walter Stinson. She would also kick objects and was often helped by those attending her sessions.

How did she know Houdini?

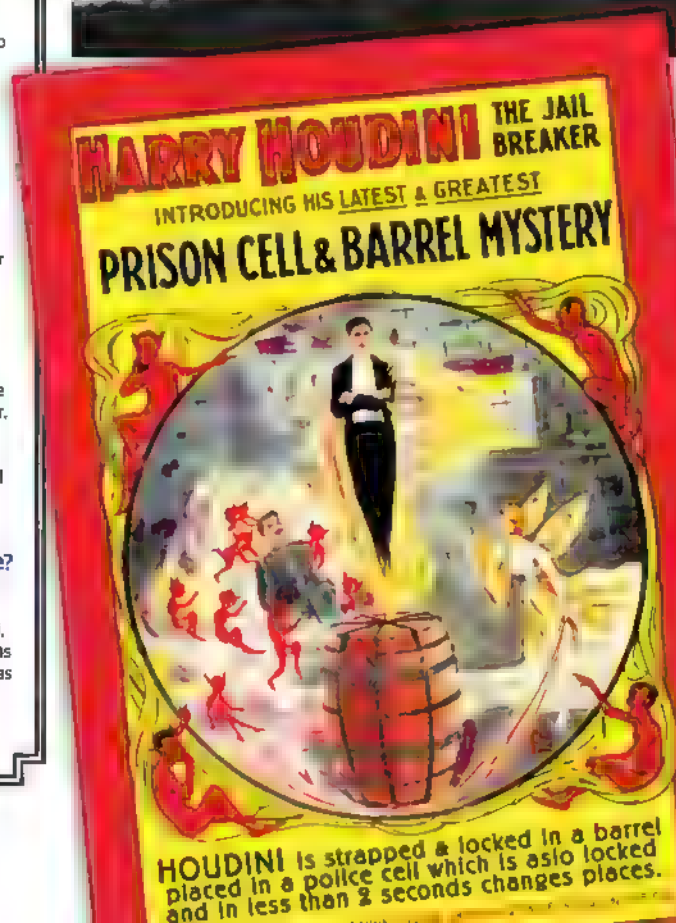
Mina's performance as Margery had gained notoriety after gaining support from people like Conan Doyle. Houdini attended her séance in 1924 when she had convinced the other panellists for *Scientific American* of her abilities, as he wanted to make up his own mind about her.

What happened?

On 23 July 1924, Houdini arrived at the Crandon's Lime Street house in Boston. Here he witnessed her take on the voice of Walter, who communicated directly with Houdini through Margery, asking where he should throw objects. Houdini claimed he could feel her movements and would expose her with one more session.

Did Mina Crandon want revenge?

Mina continued to perform as Margery and even added new tricks to her sessions. Margery's supporters rallied against Houdini, and Walter the spirit guide made many claims about Houdini, including one in 1925 that was too close for comfort: "Houdini will be gone by Halloween."



“Houdini was crushed, and months later publicly exposed the séance as fraudulent”

through the method of ‘automatic writing.’ The message read, ‘Oh my darling, thank God, thank God, at last I’m through. I’ve tried, oh so often now I am happy. Why, of course, I want to talk to my boy – my own beloved boy – friends, thank you, with all my heart for this’

Houdini would certainly have been happy with such a message, were it not for two instrumental details. Cecilia only ever spoke broken English, and she never learned to write. Houdini was crushed, but hid his disappointment until months later when he publicly exposed the séance as fraudulent. He maintained he did not blame the Conan Doyles, but believed them to have been swept away with their own beliefs.

The relationship between the two was strained after the encounter and they publicly came to blows over the medium Mina Crandon, who Conan Doyle believed to be a gifted spiritualist, but whom Houdini exposed as a fraud in a high-profile case for *Scientific American*. They had offered a prize of \$2,500 to any medium who could convince the panel, on which Houdini sat, that they were genuinely able to channel spirits. When Houdini heard that Mina, who performed under the name ‘Margery’, had convinced every other member of the panel of her authenticity, he immediately cancelled upcoming shows and headed to Boston to give his judgement. On 23 July 1924, Houdini sat in a séance with Margery, her husband and some believers, attempting to work out her methods. He sat on Margery’s left and had worn a tight bandage on his right leg all day so that he could feel any movement, no matter how slight. By the end of the séance he felt he had her worked out, but would need to attend one more session to truly expose her methods.

For his second séance with Margery, he had a special box constructed. The box would conceal Margery’s legs, and constrain her arms and neck so that her head poked out of the top of the apparatus. Without the ability to kick objects or

with Houdini’s attempts to dismantle the phenomenon. One of his most famous adversaries was in fact a former friend, the Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The two had met in 1920 and had a mutual respect for one another, despite beliefs at opposite ends of the spiritualist spectrum.

The similarities between the two men are undeniable; both were intelligent and in prominent positions, and Conan Doyle, like Houdini, had lost loved ones. However, perhaps due to a lack of knowledge of magic methods that set Houdini apart, Conan Doyle had been thoroughly convinced by his trips to mediums and forays into the world of the supernatural. In fact, Conan Doyle was a prime example of the grieving relative taken advantage of that so infuriated Houdini, and it was for their sake as well as his own that his campaign raged on.

Houdini’s ghost-busting campaign wasn’t one that Conan Doyle appreciated, though. He believed Houdini to be a psychic of great talent, despite his protestations, and invited him on several occasions to see mediums he felt could convince Houdini of the movement’s authenticity. On one occasion, Conan Doyle invited Houdini to his home for a séance led by his wife, Lady Jean, and Houdini accepted, trusting his host’s honesty and respectability. Houdini became even more enthused by the thought as Jean declared that she would attempt to contact his mother, something he, despite his rational mind, still hoped might be possible. The séance started well, with Jean relaying a loving message from Cecilia

The box Houdini created to expose Margery was simple but highly effective

THE CANCER OF SUPERSTITION

In 1926, Houdini commissioned the eminent science-fiction writer H. P. Lovecraft to write a book denouncing spiritualism once and for all. Lovecraft and Houdini had already worked together on various projects, including a semi-fictional short story, *Imprisoned With The Pharaohs*, but the new commission, *The Cancer Of Superstition*, was to be a rational, scientific book, investigating why spiritualism was such a widespread phenomenon. However, Houdini and Lovecraft would never see their revolutionary tome published – Houdini’s sudden death on 31 October 1926 put paid to the project.

Bess halted all work on it following Houdini’s death, and a detailed synopsis is all that remains of the book. According to the surviving plan, the book would have consisted of chapters explaining the ‘harmful effects of superstition’ and examining its roots in ‘man’s effort to assign causes for the natural phenomena around him.’ Exactly why Bess halted the project we will never know. Some think it was too much to handle with the grief of her husband’s death, but it has been suggested that she still harboured a belief in spiritualism





Houdini's widow Bess holding her last séance in Houdini's memory in 1936

"ROSABELLE BELIEVE"

The Houdinis never gave up they would one day be able to communicate from beyond the grave, and agreed on the phrase 'Rosabelle, believe' as a message to ensure they would know they were truly speaking to one another

Every year after Houdini's death, Bess held séances and was almost convinced when one medium managed to transfer the very message she had been waiting for: 'Rosabelle, believe.' Arthur Ford, in 1929, communicated the message and afterward convinced Bess to sign a letter confirming his success. Five years later, Bess issued a letter of her own, stating in black and white that she had never been contacted by her husband, through a medium or by any other means.

How Arthur Ford got the message we may never know, but Bess was seemingly not convinced

the help of her husband, Margery was exposed as a fraud. Conan Doyle refused to accept the outcome, but Mina Brandon did not receive the \$2,500 prize, and the case has remained as one of Houdini's greatest triumphs

In October 1926, two young men entered the dressing room of the Princess Theatre, Montreal, where Houdini sat preparing for his show. They had come, they said, to see whether it was true that Houdini could take a blow to the stomach as had been reported. He replied that he could, if given time to prepare. No sooner had he said it than J Gordon Whitehead, one of the men, punched Houdini four times in the stomach.

The trauma to the stomach either led to or exacerbated a case of severe appendicitis, and the resulting acute peritonitis that killed Houdini, on 31 October - Halloween. The punch was the final event in a long list of unhappy accidents that took place while Houdini was touring with the anti-spiritualism show, including his wife Bess falling ill with ptomaine poisoning, and a chain slipping in the Water Torture Cell trick, leading to a fractured ankle for Houdini. Questions remain over whether this spate of bad luck, ending in Houdini's

death at the age of 52, was pure bad luck, or something more sinister. He had, after all, made plenty of enemies through his debunking campaign.

Despite his crusade against mediums, Harry and Bess always had an agreement that if he was able to reach her from beyond the grave, he would. A year after his death, on Halloween, 1927, Bess invited some of the most famous spiritualists of the time to conduct the first of what would be an annual séance in hope of contacting Houdini.

Many mediums over the years attempted to convince Bess that they had made contact with Houdini's spirit, but even the most convincing was discovered to be fraudulent.

That someone who so vehemently opposed to spiritualism would still hold on to a shadow of doubt, and that his wife was clearly as eager as those Houdini sought to protect to communicate with the dead is a fascinating twist in the tale. To this day, annual séances are held by fans in the hope of receiving word from Houdini on whether communication is possible and what we can expect after death. Despite the fierce opposition to spiritualism he held on to throughout his life, Houdini always hoped in his heart that contact between the living and the dead was possible. Yet no matter how many times he tried, he could never make contact with the dead while he was alive, and has not yet found a way to make contact with the living in death. It was the mystery that consumed his later life and was the one trick that the Great Houdini could never pull off.

"Mediums would demonstrate their powers in various ways from unexplained noises to the production of ethereal ectoplasm"



THE STORIES, STRATEGIES, HEROES & MACHINES

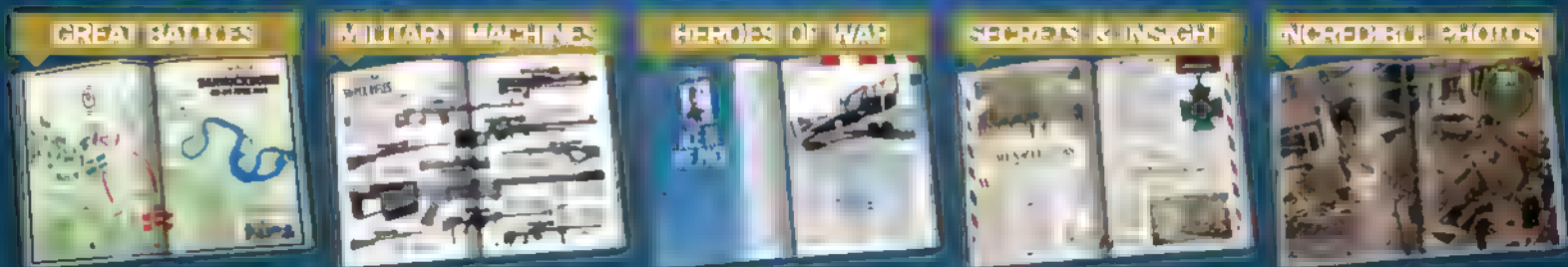
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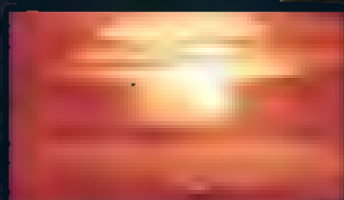
A Tsar Bomba on display in a war museum

What was the largest man-made explosion ever?

Ian Woan, Sheffield

At 11.32am on 30 October 1961, a three-stage thermonuclear device descended from the undercarriage of a Soviet Tupolev Tu-95 bomber and parachuted to Earth. At 27 tons, the 'Tsar Bomba', otherwise known as 'Big Ivan', weighed almost as much as the aircraft that had delivered it. When it detonated over the Mityushikha Bay area of Novaya Zemlya, a frigid archipelago curving out of the Arctic Circle, it did so with 1,400 times the explosive force of the blasts that had destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in WWII.

The Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev had authorised the nuclear test that July, aiming to have it coincide with 22 October's Congress of the Communist Party. He hoped to show the world that the Soviets could top the US



A photo of a US nuclear test at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific

Castle Bravo test, carried out in Bikini Atoll in March 1954. On that occasion, the weapon had a yield of 15 megatons, equal to 15 million tons of TNT. The Tsar Bomba created a 57-megaton blast, its mushroom cloud billowing 56 kilometres (35 miles) into the stratosphere. The explosion measured 5.0 on the Richter scale and flattened every building in the abandoned village of Severny, 55 kilometres (34 miles) away. Windows were cracked in Norway and Finland, 900 kilometres (559 miles) away.

When were gun-fired bullets first used in war?

Holly James, Sydney

The earliest known use of guns and bullets on the battlefield is at Towton, part of the Wars of the Roses. On 29 March 1461, the armies of York and Lancaster clashed in an open field between the villages of Towton and Saxton. In the swirling snow, soldiers from both armies hacked and gouged at each other. Thousands more perished as longbows from the Yorkist side sent a hail of arrows down on enemy lines.

In November 2010, metal detectors sweeping over the old battlefield revealed one of Towton's lethal innovations: a spherical lead bullet with an iron core together with fragments of two pole-supported guns. The guns were likely low-calibre weapons, although they were lethal at close range – often to the hapless soldier firing them. The metal in these guns was found to have been of very poor quality and liable to fracture in the snowy conditions at Towton, probably causing the gun to explode upon being fired. Although 28,000 men were said to have perished on the slushy battlefield, Towton itself was not decisive: the Wars of the Roses dragged on for 24 years until the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.



The Battle of Towton is the first known battle where guns were used

This day in history 11 December

1792

Louis XVI goes on trial
In September 1792, the National Assembly declares France a Republic and abolishes the monarchy. On 11 December the deposed king is charged with high treason. The following month he is sentenced to death.

1844

The first dental use of nitrous oxide
Known as 'laughing gas,' nitrous oxide is first applied as an anaesthetic when Horace Wells, a dentist from Hartford, Connecticut, has a tooth extracted by a colleague, John Riggs.

1901

The first transatlantic radio signal
Guglielmo Marconi transmits a signal from Cornwall to Newfoundland, Canada. Six years later, a regular transatlantic radio-telegraph service is established.

1936

Abdication crisis
Edward VIII announces on radio that he is abdicating in order to marry Wallis Simpson, a divorced American socialite. He is succeeded by his younger brother Albert, who takes the regnal title of George VI.

1941

Germany and Italy declare war on the United States
Germany and Italy declare war on the USA, which in turn declares war on them. The three Axis powers are bound together by the Tripartite Pact, signed in Berlin in September 1940.



Did the real Dracula actually drink human blood?

Tim Strong, London

There is no evidence that Bram Stoker's historical muse actually consumed blood, but there is no doubt that he enjoyed spilling it. Vlad III was known as 'Tepes' (the Impaler) and ruled Wallachia, one of the three main provinces of modern Romania, on three occasions between 1448 and 1476. The name 'Dracul' is derived from the Latin 'draco' (dragon). As ruler, Dracul's father had been inducted into the Order of the Dragon, created by the future Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund in 1408 and tasked with defending Christendom against the Ottoman Turks. In their youth, Vlad and his brother Radu had spent six years as hostages of the Turkish Murad II to ensure their father's loyalty. It is probable he witnessed impalements being carried out by the Turks during this time; these were a slow and agonising method of execution.

Upon ascending the throne, Vlad routinely used impalement as a punishment for aristocrats and peasants alike. Stories circulated in late-15th-century Europe of Vlad Dracul eating bread he had dipped in the pools of blood that had accumulated around major impalements. Such stories would have strengthened his association with the vampire, a folkloric undead creature that appears in the legends of Romania and the Balkans. A German poem from the time does not portray Vlad as a blood drinker, but claims he would wash his hands in the blood of his victims before dining.

After being killed in a battle outside Bucharest on 26 December 1476, Vlad's severed head was presented to Sultan Mehmet II on a pole. This may have contributed to the legend that a vampire must have its head cut off to be fully vanquished.

YOUR TWEETS

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@AboutHistoryMag My new issue arrived today! Can't wait to read it! Love you guys!

@SeanModhi

THANKS @AboutHistoryMag

For teaching me Caligula once thru a section of the Colosseum to the wild animals. Mad monarchs indeed

@PipzJay

@AboutHistoryMag - many thanks for my books prize, some were already on my wishlist!

@little_mo_123

@AboutHistoryMag So thrilled to have won the book giveaway. Can't wait to receive them! Fantastic prize from a fantastic magazine!

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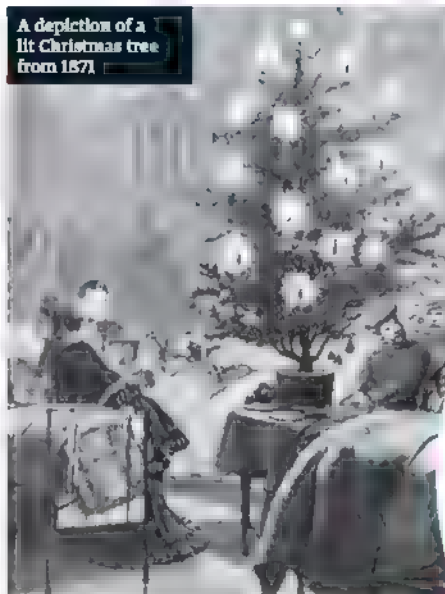
When were the first illuminated Christmas trees put on display?

Frank Mitchell, Hartlepool

According to legend, the Protestant reformer Martin Luther was walking in a forest of evergreens one night when he saw stars twinkling through the branches. Chopping down a fir tree, Luther brought it home to his family and illuminated it with candles. However, in pre-Christian Europe, bringing greenery into the home at the time of the winter solstice was associated with regeneration. In Roman times, a decorated tree was associated with Saturnalia, a December festival that honoured Saturnus, god of agriculture.

In Medieval Europe, 'Paradise trees' were decorated with apples to mark the Feast of Adam and Eve on 24 December every year. German migrants brought the tradition of the tree to the United States and in 1834 Prince Albert brought the first tree to Windsor Castle. However, Victoria's grandmother Queen Charlotte recalled seeing a Christmas tree in the queen's lodge on Christmas Day 1800.

A depiction of a lit Christmas tree from 1571



Discover ten terrifying quotes from deadly dictators at historyanswers.co.uk

1971

Death of Big Mac

Maurice McDonald, co-founder of McDonald's, dies. Together with his brother Richard, Maurice McDonald had opened the first McDonald's restaurant in San Bernardino, California, in 1940.

1972

The final Moon mission

Apollo 17 lands on the Moon, crewed by Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans and Harrison Schmidt. Two days later, they spend over seven hours outside the lunar module. No humans have since stepped on the Moon.

2008

Arrest of Bernard Madoff

Bernard Madoff is arrested and charged with fraud in a \$50 billion Ponzi (pyramid) scheme, considered the largest financial scam in US history. He is later sentenced to 150 years in prison.

2012

Hawking wins the Fundamental Physics Prize

Professor Stephen Hawking wins the world's most lucrative academic prize. The \$3-million prize honours his work on quantum gravity, the state of the primeval universe and the radiation emitted from black holes.



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AMAZING STORIES

A perilous journey to South Australia



Wayne Rosser

My ancestor, John Rosser, was a tailor sponsored by the South Australian department store Cravens in early-1849 to emigrate from Newport in Wales to South Australia to work for them. Rosser

travelled with his wife and seven children (and another born on the voyage) on the SS Aden. The journey started badly when the ship collided with a fishing boat, and things only got worse from there. There were numerous complaints about the staff, such as the surgeon who was "professionally incompetent, [...] gross and improper in his language, and seldom sober"

The provisions on board were also terrible, with reports of rotting meat being served to the passengers, beer that was decades out of date, potatoes that were as hard as chalk, mouldy biscuits, rancid butter and puddings boiled in salt water. Even the tea was made partly or entirely from salt water. Many passengers became severely ill as a result and even threatened to kill the ship's cats and boil them for fresh meat

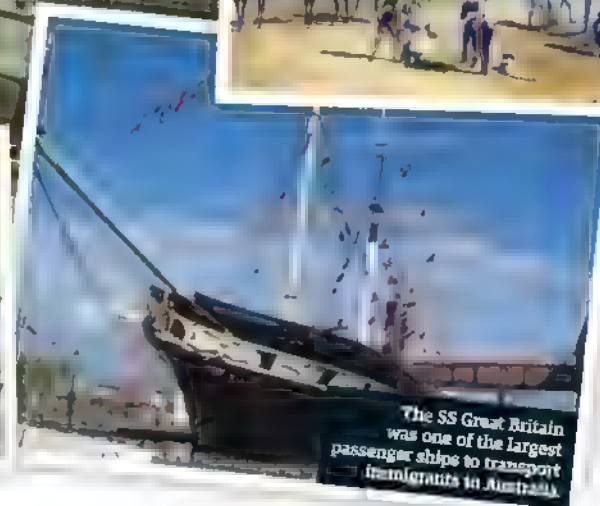
The captain was uninterested in the passengers' plight and ignored complaints that water was dripping into passengers' berths, causing their beds to

rot. One man was even forced to curl up in a four-foot bed for months. The captain began to use the paying passengers as slaves, forcing them to do menial jobs such as cleaning the decks and threatened them with no food or medical supplies if they did not comply

During the Crossing The Line ceremony, an initiation rite of a sailor's first crossing of the equator, the passengers were forced to take part. One passenger was perched on a pole, pinioned and blindfolded. When he opened his mouth it was filled with a mixture of slush, tar and grease. He was then cut with a jagged razor across his face and hurled backward into a sail filled with salt water. Two sailors disguised as bears held him down in the water for several moments, and he barely escaped with his life

Other passengers were also subjected to acts of cruelty, such as having their whiskers pulled out along with the flesh. Finally, the passengers had had enough of the torment, armed themselves with what they could find, even stool legs, so finally the captain gave in and ordered the "fun" to be stopped. When the passengers returned to their quarters, they discovered that buckets of water had been thrown over their clothes. Unsurprisingly many of the passengers paid extra money to get to the port on other vessels at the first chance.

Beehive Corner, now a landmark in the city of Adelaide, earned its name from the draper's shop opened in 1849



The SS Great Britain was one of the largest passenger ships to transport immigrants to Australia

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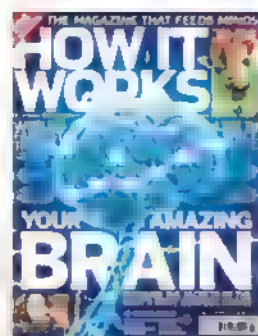
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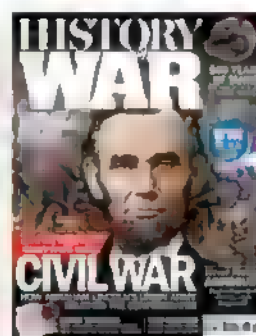
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Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6EZ
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586200
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www.greatdigitalmags.com
www.historyanswers.co.uk

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Cover Image

Joe Cummings, Alamy, The Art Agency/Jean Michel-Girard

Images

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Subscriptions

Overseas +44 (0)1795 592 867

Email: allabouthistory@servicehelpline.co.uk

13 issue subscription (UK) – £41

13 issue subscription (Europe) – £50

13 issue subscription (USA) – £50

13 issue subscription (ROW) – £60

Circulation

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Distributed in the UK, Eire: Marketforce, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU

☎ 0203 148 3300

Distributed in Australia by: Network Services (a division of Bauer Media Group), Level 21 Civic Tower, 66-68 Goulburn Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

☎ +61 2 8667 5288

Distributed in the Rest of the World by: Marketforce, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU

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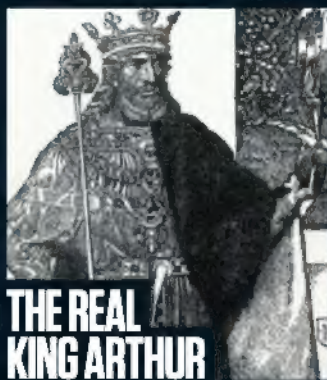
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Washington's rise from freedom fighter to founding father



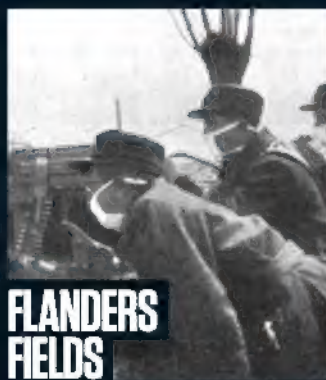
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ISSN 2052-5870



HISTORY HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



THIRTEEN DAYS

Director: Roger Donaldson Starring: Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood, Shawn Driscoll Country of origin: USA Year made: 2000

Does this dramatic retelling of the Cuban missile crisis harbour historical mistakes?

What they got right

The entire sense of crisis and imminent threat the film creates is spot-on. By using real dialogue from the secret tapes, actual footage of the missile sites and Walter Cronkite's live television reports, it perfectly captures the true historical magnitude of those 13 days spent on the precipice of global catastrophe.



WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 The film is told from the perspective of Kenneth O'Donnell, a presidential aide. In reality, O'Donnell wasn't nearly as important as he's portrayed. Arthur Schlesinger Jr, another of Kennedy's aides, said he "had nothing to do with the Cuban missile crisis".

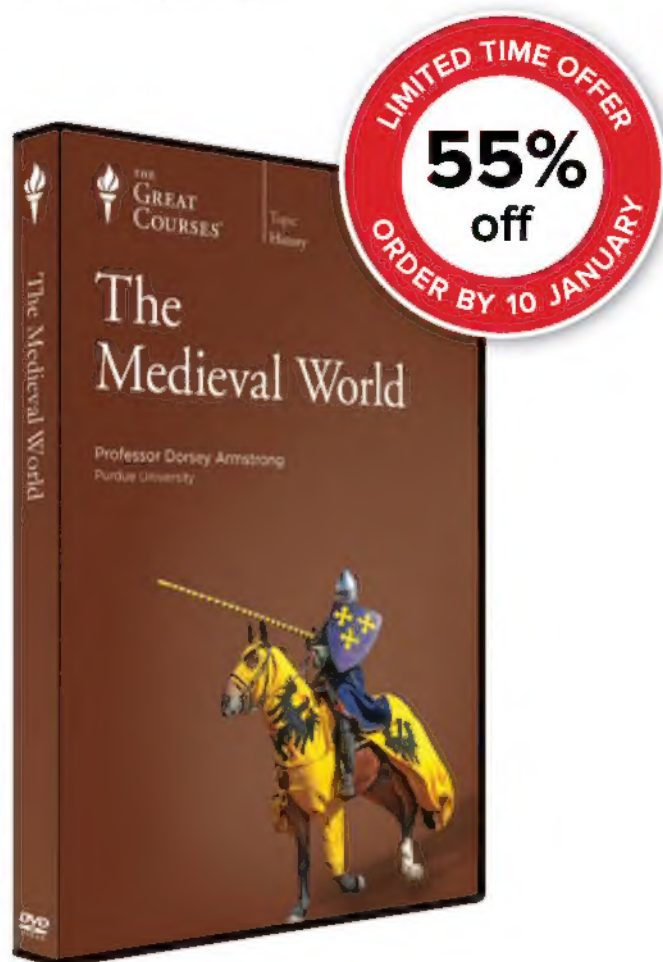
02 National security adviser McGeorge Bundy is portrayed as a nervous and cowardly figure. The real Bundy was renowned for his wit, skill, judgement and intelligence, which is why he was one of Kennedy's most valued advisors.

03 One of the most criticised parts of the film is the portrayal of the US military. There was tension between the president and the military, but *Thirteen Days* implies the military pressured Kennedy into a situation where he'd have to declare war, which isn't true.

04 The executive committee is made aware of the deal struck with the Soviets to remove Turkish missiles in the film, but in reality this was only known to a privileged few - the Kennedy brothers, Sorensen, Rusk and possibly McNamara.

05 The members of the photo-recon air crews wear flight suits that are almost completely bare. These suits were used - but not until the late-1960s. Considering the film is set in 1962, the uniforms should be covered with unit patches, name tags and indication of rank.





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May

Hastings, Jack in the Green

Battle Medieval Fayre

June

Great War Weekend, Kent & East Sussex Railway

August

Herstmonceux Medieval Festival

Bodiam Castle Grand Medieval Weekend

September

Bexhill Festival of the Sea

Hastings Seafood & Wine Festival

October

Hastings Bonfire & Torchlight Procession

Battle, Re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings

Rye, Wild Boar Week, Festival of Game

November

Hastings Herring Fair

Sussex Bonfire & Torchlight Processions,
Rye & Robertsbridge

